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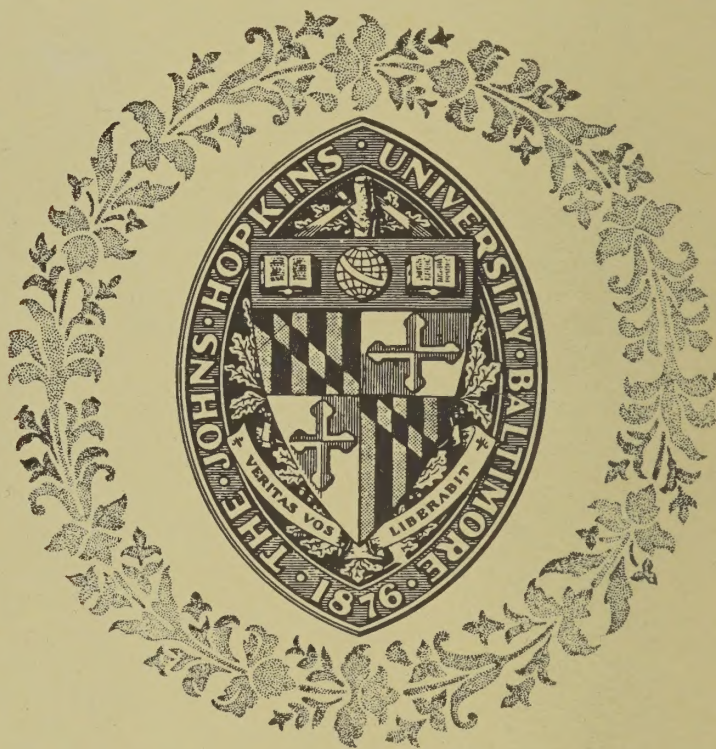
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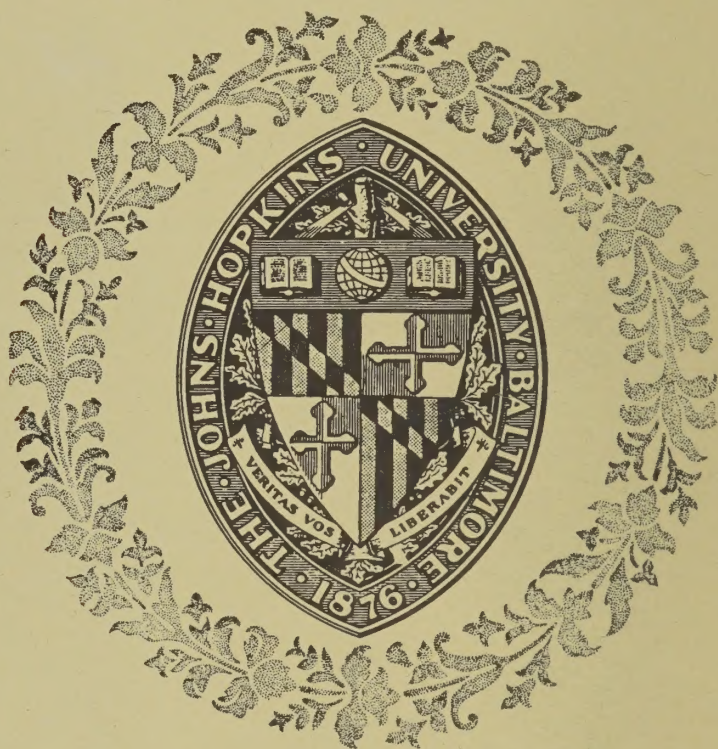


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THE  
LIFE AND ADVENTURES  
OF  
LAZARILLO DE TORMES.

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

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VOL. I.

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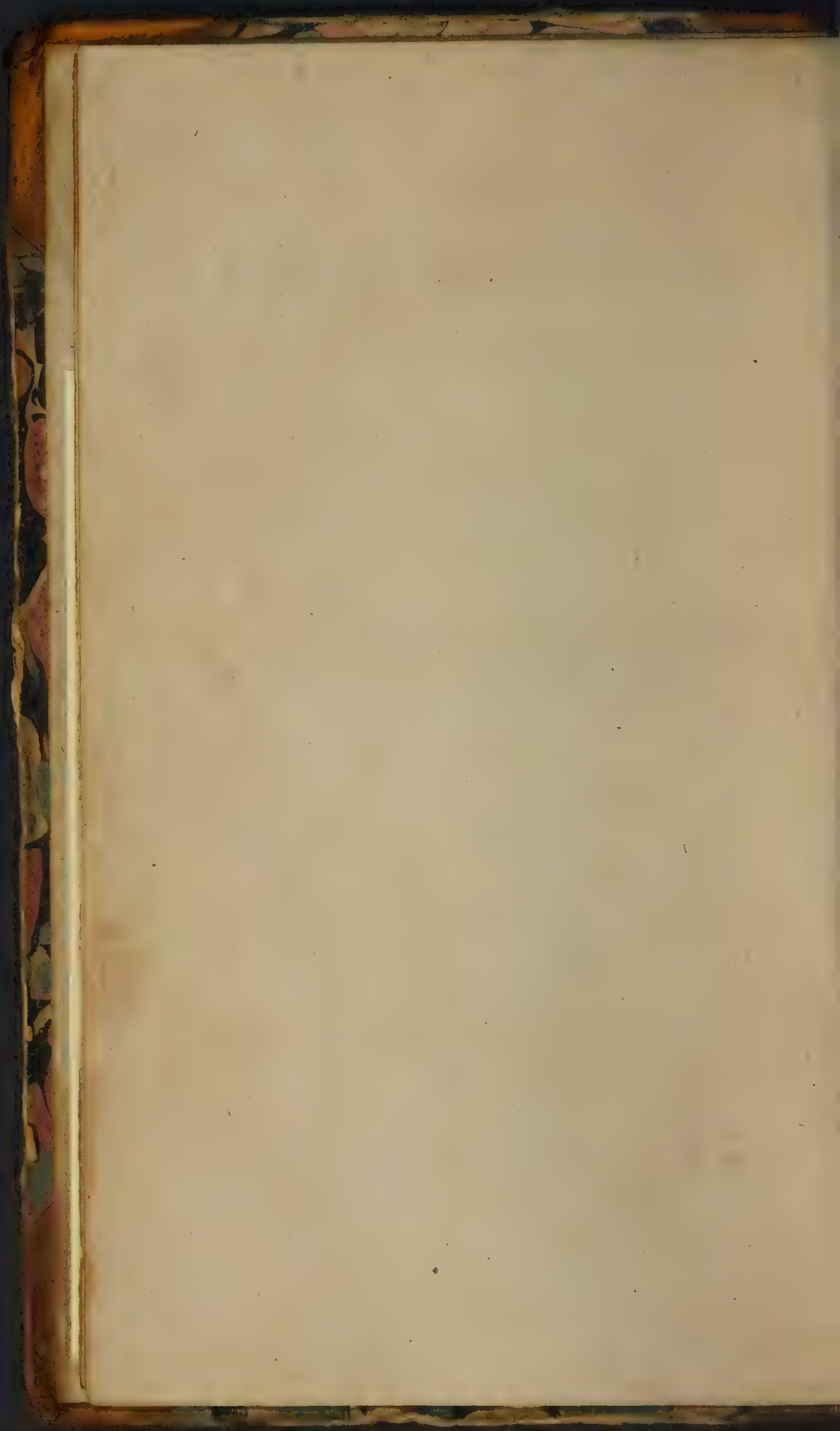
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THE LIFE  
OF  
LAZARILLO DE TORMES.

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CHAPTER I.

*Account of Lazarillo's Parents; his Birth; and the  
Amours of Antonietta Perez, his Mother, with  
the Moor Zaide.*

**B**EFORE I enter on the particulars of my own life, it seems to me necessary that I should give some account of those to whom I owe it: in consequence of this idea, I acquaint my readers, that the names of my

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parents

parents were Thomas Gonzalez and Antonietta Perez. They were natives of Tegares, a suburb of Salamanca; I was called Lazarillo de Tormes, from being born on the river of that name, as I shall recount presently.

My father, God rest his soul! had rented for fifteen years a mill on the River Tormes, and was allowed to be *very expert* in the business of it. My mother, in passing the river one night, was seized so suddenly with the pains incident to the situation she was in, that I made my appearance before she could reach home. I may therefore justly say, I was born on the river; and were I inclined, like some great men of past ages, to flourish over the account of my birth, I might call myself a son of some river god; a singular event in my life would strengthen



strengthen the claim ; but I scorn deception ; my readers will find I do not disguise even what it may not be very glorious to disclose. To return. I was scarcely eight years of age, when my father was accused of having given some cruel stabs to the sacks of his customers ; he was taken up on this charge, confessed it to be true, and suffered like a hero the punishment inflicted by justice.

At this period our sovereign was raising an army against the Moors, in which my father, as he was obliged to quit his native place, engaged ; he got into the service of an officer, to whom he proved so faithful, that when his master took his departure from this world, his servant followed him.

My mother being left thus without assistance or support, resolved to apply to some good people, and to gain an honest livelihood, by following their example. Accordingly she went to live in the town, where she hired a small house, and took in boarders; she also washed for the grooms of the commander of the Magdelans. In consequence of frequenting the stables to fetch the linen, she attracted the regard of a Moor, who was superintendant of that department; he became desperately in love with her; it was not in my mother's nature to be cruel.

In a short time they became such good friends, that the Moor often came to pass his evenings at our house; it was dangerous going home in the dark, he therefore always staid till the  
the



the morning; and sometimes he would come too in the middle of the day, under pretence of buying eggs, though, heaven knows, we had no hens. Thus by degrees, he got a complete footing in the house.

I was at first very much displeased at this familiarity; the black skin and ugly face of the Moor frightened me; besides, I did not see what right he had to quarter himself on us in this manner; but, perceiving at length, that we fared better since he paid his visits, I accommodated myself to them with all imaginable facility; in fact, he never came to see us without bringing a nice dish of meat, or fowls; he supplied us also with bread and wine, and even with firing all the cold weather.

It is rather natural to suppose, that this tender attachment would be attended with some suspicious circumstances; a trifling occurrence of this nature arose, for, one fine morning, my mother made us a present of a prettly little black boy, to whom I was appointed nurse.

I remember one day, when my little brother could walk, the Moor wanted to play with him, the poor child accustomed to the sight of my mother and me, who were white, flew towards her, and pointing his finger in mockery at his father, cried out, mammy, mammy, the monster! the monster! the Moor burst out a laughing, and called him a little bastard.

Though I was but a child, I reflected deeply on what my little brother  
had



had said, and thought to myself, that there were others in the world who reproached their neighbours for want of knowing themselves.

As ill luck would have it, this connection of my left handed father-in-law came to the ears of the commander, who set a watch on him; and it was discovered that he robbed the horses of their corn; that the bran, the wood, the very combs, brushes, horse cloths, and linen; in short, every thing disappeared, and were said to be lost; that rather than want the means of contributing to the support of my mother and the child, the charitable Moor had even taken the shoes from the horses' feet to convert into money.

This, and various other things of the kind were proved on him, for they questioned me so closely, threatening me with the most horrid punishments if I did not confess the truth, that my fears made me tell more than they asked; I acknowledged even selling, by my mother's order, the locks of the stable door, which her lover had given her.

My father-in-law was whipped *in forma amplissima*, and my mother forbid, on pain of a similar castigation, to put her foot in the commander's house again, or to admit the Moor into hers. Thus ended the loves of Zaide the Moor, and the fair Antonietta! My mother made a virtue of necessity, and bore her fate with christian patience; but, to avoid the uneasiness that might be given her by  
cenfori-



cenforious tongues, changed her place of residence, and took up her abode at an inn, where she found employment in waiting on the guests ; and as I was old enough to go on the errands of the house, we got by these means a decent livelihood.

## CHAPTER II.

*Lazarillo enters into the Service of a blind Man.*

*His Character. The Tricks they played each other.*

A BLIND old man came one day to refresh himself at our inn, and being in want of somebody to conduct him about, I was recommended to him as a sharp lad, who would answer his purpose. He questioned me, and being satisfied with my answers, begged me of my mother; she did not require much eloquence to persuade her to part with me, but contented herself in recommending me to his care. She told him, I was the son of an honest man, who was killed at the battle of Geleas; she hoped, with the blessing of providence, I should



should be as good as my father ; and as I was a poor orphan, she added, he should regard me as his child.

The blind man was lavish of his promises ; he assured her he should, as she desired, treat me as his own child. My mother was satisfied ; and I entered into the service of my new, yet old master.

We remained some few days longer in Salamanca, in which time I discovered that my master exercised the profession of a beggar ; but as he found his talents met not the reward they merited in this town, he resolved to decamp. Previous to our departure, I went to take leave of my mother ; she wept, kissed, and blessed me, saying, my mind misgives me, my child, that I shall never see you more ; re-

ceive then my last advice ; remember the example of your parents, and do not disgrace your education ; be honest ; I have provided you a good master ; make the most of your advantages, and providence be your guide.

My mother's counsel sunk into my mind. I resolved to pay implicit obedience to her advice, and to follow the example she had set me ; if her ideas of goodness did not agree with the ideas of others on this subject, I hope my readers will not condemn a mere difference of opinion.

My resolution thus made, and my principles formed by such examples as had been recommended for my model, I entered on the great world.

As



As soon as I returned to my master, we set out on our departure from Salamanca. On our arrival at the bridge, I perceived at one end of it, a figure carved in stone, which looked like a bull. I asked what it was placed there for? The blind man told me to go very near, and I should hear it roar. I accordingly put my head almost close to it, silly enough to believe him: when he found I obeyed, he pushed me so violently against the devilish beast, that it almost split my skull. I roared out, though the beast was silent; and my master burst out laughing at the trick he had played me, saying at the same time, for my comfort, let this be a lesson to thee; poor simpleton; know that he who leads the blind, should be more cunning than the devil. I comprehended immediately the meaning of this  
enigma,

enigma, and as if awakened from the dreams of my childhood, said to myself, faith, he is in the right, it is time to open the eyes of my understanding, and think for myself; left to the wide world, my wits are all I am to depend on for my provision.

As we pursued our journey, my master taught me the jargon of his profession; he found me an apt scholar, which so delighted him, that he exclaimed, "Lazarillo, my child, I have neither gold nor silver to give thee, but I will give thee what is more precious, — good advice, — which will enable thee to maintain thyself handsomely, and to conduct thee with honor through the world." He was as good as his word for I can truly vouch, that I owe all I am to him; though blind himself, he enlightened me,



me, and shewed me the ways of worldly wisdom.

Of all the beings nature ever produced, there never was one who understood how to see their advantage of human weakness, better than my master. *He knew more tricks than one* to gain a livelihood; magic, physic, and theology, were called as the occasion demanded, to his aid. He had love-powders for young girls to recover their faithless sweethearts, charms for the cure of every disorder, and prayers for the service of the old devotees; these last he recited in a low voice, but so distinctly, that the whole church admired his devotion; and unlike those of his kind, who were not so well versed in the art, he employed no grimaces or contortions of countenance.

In

In his physical character, Galen was a novice to him ; his patients had only to name their disorder, and he found a remedy for it immediately ; one was desired to gather such a root, another to apply a particular herb ; on those who could pay for it, he had relics to bestow, which would preserve them from every kind of evil. By these means he acquired such fame in every place through which he passed, that we were always surrounded by a croud, who placed implicit confidence in him ; the women in particular, had such faith, that they never swore but by the blind man. Nor was fame the only reward of his talents ; he gained very considerable sums of money ; but he was such a miserly wretch, that he would not allow me, with his own will, enough to keep life and soul together ; nay, to such a pitch did



did he carry this disposition, that he not only starved me, but himself too.

A fool would have sunk a hundred times under my circumstances. I, however, in spite of the cunning of my old man, contrived by my tricks, and the deceptions I passed on him, to outwit him; and generally was so successful as to gain the largest share of whatever was given to him. To give my readers some idea of the stratagems I employed, I will relate a few of them, though they did not always end exactly as I could wish, to be sure.

He always carried the bread, meat, and whatever else was given to him, in a cloth wallet, which he fastened with a padlock; whenever he was obliged to have recourse to this repository,

pository, it was done with so many precautions, and he kept his accounts so clearly, that old nick himself could not have robbed him of a crumb. When he had given me my portion, which I swallowed up with ease in two mouthfuls, he carefully locked up the wallet, and supposing it then safe, let it lay carelessly by him; I watched my opportunities, and pretending I was otherwise engaged, drew near the wallet on tiptoe, and unripping one of the seams, helped myself to bread, meat, and whatever I liked, then sewed it up again, and put it in its place; by this means I gained, if not enough to satisfy me, sufficient to preserve me from starving. All the money I could scrape together, I converted into half clanes\*, and whenever his benefac-

\* A small Spanish coin, in value about a fourth of our halfpenny.



tors extended their charity, I held my hand, and putting the whole clane (their usual donation) hastily into my mouth, I gave him a half clane, which was ready in my hand for the purpose; and cunning as he was, I proved too many for him. When by the feel of the money he found his alms reduced to half what it used to be, he complained bitterly. "What can be the reason of this, Lazarillo, he would say to me, ever since you have been with me, I have received only half what I used to get; nay less, for I have known the times when the charitable people have given me even a maravela. I must needs lay this at thy door; thou art an *unlucky* lad." —Perhaps some of my readers may agree with him.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER III.

*Lazarillo, by various Stratagems, gets the blind Man's Wine; is discovered; his Master's Revenge.*

**M**Y master generally at our meals, put his wine, which was in an earthen jug, on one side of him; I slyly stretched out my arm, and giving it a couple of long, but silent kisses, put it back again with the same care. This trick, however, did not procure me any lasting advantage, for my master perceiving by his draughts, that his quantity was diminished, to secure it in future, always held it by the handle.

His precautions only made me more ingenious in finding out devices; my  
next



next plan was, to procure a long straw, by which means I obtained a charming portion; but whether the cunning devil suspected the trick, or heard me suck, I know not, but changing his plan all at once, he placed the jug between his knees, and kept one hand over the top, while he eat with the other.

Finding that this invention was of no further use, I set my brains to work to discover some other that would serve my turn; for I was grown so fond of my beverage by this time, that I would rather have gone without clothes. I bethought myself therefore, of making a small hole at the bottom of the jug, which I closed with a bit of wax. When supper time came, under pretence of being cold, I sat on the ground, crouding

crouding between my master's legs, then taking a lamp, I applied the flame to the wax, which melted instantly, and a small stream of wine ran into my mouth, which was placed so commodiously for its reception, that not a drop went beside it.

When the old man returned to the charge, he was astonished to find the jug almost empty ; he wished the wine and jug at the devil, unable to conceive how it could have happened, that he was now outwitted. In the midst of his grumblings, I said, well, I hope you will now no longer suspect me of drinking your wine ; you have taken your measures so well, that you must be convinced I could not get a drop. He made me no answer, but kept turning the jug about, and feeling every part of it ; his search appeared ineffectual,



fectual, for he took no further notice then.

The next day, supposing myself undiscovered, I took my usual place, and prepared to enjoy my bottle. I lay at my ease, my eyes half closed, sucking in delicious draughts, when, all of a sudden, without my having the smallest suspicion of his intentions, the blind man, with violent rage, seized with both hands this delightful but cruel jug, and dashed it down with all his strength on my head. Unprepared for such a blow, the old man's revenge was complete. I thought the roof of the house had fallen in; in fact, the stroke was so well aimed, that I was deprived of all sense and motion. The jug was broken in a thousand pieces, some of which were buried in my face; besides  
which

which, it broke half a dozen of my teeth, of which I feel the loss to this hour.

From that moment, heaven forgive me, I conceived such an aversion to my wretch of a master, that I never could conquer it; it was in vain that he afterwards attempted to make me forget it by caresses and fair speeches; I too plainly perceived through all this flattery, that he took a malicious pleasure in the revenge he had had, and this made it stick in my gizzard.

To return to my story. The old man, when he found he had succeeded in his intentions to his hearts content, washed my wounds with some wine, and when I recovered, said to me smiling, and pointing to the wine, "you see, Lazarillo, *that what*  
*wounds* .



wounds, can cure ;" but I was not in a humour to relish his bon mots.

As I began to recover of the contusions and wounds which had so cruelly disfigured me, I considered within myself, that if the blind man played me a few more of these tricks, he would soon be rid of me; and as I did not quite approve of this kind of discharge, I resolved to adopt one that should please me better, and at the same time revenge me of him; but I delayed the execution of it till I was perfectly cured, when I hoped a favorable opportunity would occur. My master, as if he was resolved to second my intentions by his conduct, soon returned to his old ways, so that if I had been inclined to forgive him, it would have been impossible. He starved and beat me in the most cruel

manner, and tore the hair from my head, on the most trifling pretences; if any body out of compassion to me, remonstrated with him, he directly told them the story of the wine, saying, “you believe that this is a poor innocent boy, who is very ill used, but I will soon convince you how much you are mistaken; you shall judge whether the devil himself could be more wicked.” Those who listened to him, crossed themselves, and said, well, who would have thought that such a child could conceive tricks so artful; and, laughing at the recital, added, punish him, punish him, by all means, old man; God will reward you. Though the person to whom they spoke was blind, I will swear he was not deaf, for he was very punctual in following their advice: this was not the way to make me forget  
the



the wine business. However, I found means to be revenged, by leading him through all the nastiest places, and over the roughest roads; I did not mind having my share on these occasions, for I would willingly have parted with one eye, provided by that sacrifice he had lost both, if he had had them to lose.

Whenever he stumbled over any rubbish, or got into any of the traps I laid for him, he was sure to give me a rap of the skull, which was so often repeated, that I had lumps all over my head. It was in vain that I assured him that I chose the best road; the old rogue was too cunning to believe me. To prove to what a degree he carried this quality, I will relate a little specimen of his art.

## CHAPTER IV.

*The Sausage metamorphosed into a Turnip. Consequence of the Change.*

WHEN we quitted Salamanca, it was my master's design to travel towards Toledo; for though that place was not celebrated for the charity of its inhabitants, they were known to have the power, if they had not the inclination, to give; and he agreed with the old proverb, that says, *more is to be got by riches without charity, than poverty with it.* We therefore took that road, and passed through all the principal towns. Those which we found hospitable, we remained some days in; from those which were otherwise, we speedily departed.

It



It was in the season of the vintage that we passed through a village called Almorax. A vintager gave us out of charity a bunch of grapes. My old man would fain have kept them, to gratify his miserly disposition; but they had been bruised, and therefore, if put into the wallet, would have become mouldy, and spoilt the rest of the larder; in spite of himself, he therefore found he should be obliged to eat them immediately, and willing to take every advantage of the circumstance, he tried to make up to me, as he thought, the blows he had been more than usually lavish of that day.

After having held the grapes a considerable time in his hand, debating, as I conjectured, whether it was best to eat them or not, for I was pretty

well acquainted with the arguments held betwixt his appetite and his avarice; he at length desired me to lead him to some comfortable resting place, which, when I had done, he said, "we will have a treat to day, Lazarrillo; I will divide this bunch of grapes with thee; we will share them equally, like brothers. To do this fairly, we must take one a-piece at a time. Now mind thee dos'nt cheat me. I promise thee faithfully to be true to the bargain on my side."

It was agreed on, and we set to; but at the second attack, the old rogue changed his mind, and took two each time; seeing that he thus cancelled his promise, I thought I had a right to follow his example, and to punish him for the default; therefore, not satisfied with simply doing that,  
I cram-

I crammed them into my mouth, as many as I could get at once.

You will judge, my good reader, that they were soon finished. When my master perceived they were already dispatched, he shook his head, and said, "thou hast cheated me, Lazarillo; I believe from my soul thou hast eat two at a time." "Me! replied I; I beg your pardon there; I have a conscience as well as other folks." "Oh, to be sure, said the sly knave; but I am sure I am right; confess the truth," "you have eat two at a time." The idea of his being so far from the mark, tickled my fancy, so that I burst out a laughing; but my old man soon made me laugh on the other side of my mouth, for he gave me with his great mutton fist a blow on the head that made my ears sing, and my teeth

C 4                      dance,



dance, saying at the same time, "so thou dost think thou hast imposed on me, but for once, I was prepared for thy tricks, and counted the grapes before we began, so that I know thou must have crammed them by dozens down that voracious throat of thine." "I muttered out, that he had first broke the bargain;" and am not I thy master? (said he) learn, my young knave, that power sanctions every action in this world; gain but that, and thou mayest defy law, justice, and every thing that opposes thy wishes. I ought to remember this lesson I am sure, thought I, for it has been well *beat into my head*, and you may repent having given it to me, old man.

Not to fatigue my reader with too many anecdotes of the same kind, though I could relate a hundred such  
scrapes

serapes I got into, I shall content myself with reciting one more. I did not make a very shining figure in it, to be sure, but as I set out with the promise of being a very faithful historian, I resolve to be true to my word; and I recommend to all those who like me, write the adventures which have befallen them, to relate the whole truth, though it should chance to prove that they have deserved to be hanged.

My master took up his abode one day in an inn at the town of Evealona, a place of considerable note, and desired me to roast for his dinner a fine sausage that had been given him; when it was almost done enough, he took a maraveda from his pocket, and ordered me to fetch some wine.

The old proverb, which says, "*'tis opportunity makes the knave,*" was verified on this occasion, for the devil did not fail to make use of it for my temptation. I had watched with longing eyes the sausage as it turned round on the spit, and was thinking how I could make myself master of it, without being detected; I had no chance, but by substituting something in its place, of having even a taste, or of escaping undiscovered. As I was debating this, the arch fiend, who helps us on these occasions, directed my eyes towards a large rotten turnip, which had been thrown into a corner as good for nothing. The old man and I were alone; I resolved therefore to run all risks; and while he was employed in taking the money out of his pocket, I snatched up the spit, took off the sausage, and put the  
turnip



turnip in its place. I then took the money, and my master resumed the spit. Well, thinks I, I wonder whether he will make that roast, which others thought too bad to boil.

I devoured the relishing morsel as I went along ; at my return, I found my old master cooking up the turnip ; he had placed it between two pieces of bread, which, when he put to his mouth and bit, soon discovered the cheat ; turning pale with passion, he exclaimed, “ What the devil can this mean ! what have you been about, Mr. Lazarillo ? ”

“ Ay, to be sure, (said I) Lazarillo is always in fault, let what will happen ; you know I have been for the wine, so I cannot be to blame ; I suppose

C 6

pose

pose some body came in while I was absent, and has played you this trick."

"No no; no such thing, replied my master; the spit has never been out of my hand, and nobody has been here." I began to swear and vow that I had not touched it; but all my protestations were in vain; it was impossible to deceive the sharp-witted rogue. He rose up in a great hurry, and seizing me by the head, he resolved to try whether my throat would not confess the truth my tongue had denied. He prepared to smell my breath, and his passion would not allow him to fulfil his intentions by halves; for opening my mouth with both hands, he forced his long sharp nose into it. I was so frightened, that I took it at first for his foot, for the end of it was in my throat.

The

The little time that the faufage had found to fettle itfelf, added to my apprehenfions; and the effect of having my breath ftopped by this elephant's trunk, were circumftances that tended to complete my mafter's triumph, and my difgrace; for fo desperate a combuftion took place in my ftomach, that by a violent effort, I difcharged at once the faufage from my ftomach, and the vile nofe from my throat: at that inftant, I wifhed myfelf *buried* a hundred feet under ground, for *dead* I already thought myfelf.

The fury of the old Cupid arofe to fuch a height on this occafion, that if the noife I made had not drawn fome body towards us, I believe he would have frangled me. They got me from him, defpoiled of the few remaining hairs that had been left from  
former



former skirmishes, my face bruised, my eyes black, my nose bloody, and my *throat* flayed; I forgave his treatment of the *latter*, because it was the source of all my misfortunes, and deserved the punishment it received. The old man took care to tell every body that would listen to him the history of my exploits, beginning with the wine, and ending with the sausage: his auditors were so diverted, that they laughed till I thought they would have split their sides; and to own the truth, there was something so ridiculous in his manner of relating them; he took me off so exactly, that greatly as I suffered, I could not help laughing and crying at the same time.

But I sincerely regretted that I had not profited by the occasion which had offered, of being amply revenged  
on

on him, by biting off his nose; he would surely have had great assurance to complain, when it was he that *put it into my head*. No doubt my stomach would have been more careful of this deposit than it was of the other, and I should only have been even with the old rogue, for he often *snapped my nose off*.

The hostess and other people who were present, when they were tired of laughing, set themselves to make up our quarrel, which was at length effected. They then proceeded to wash my face and throat with the wine that I had fetched. My old man could not resist this occasion to rally me anew. "Truly, said he, this little knave costs me more in wine to cure his wounds in one year, than I spend in drinking it in two." You must

must confess, Lazarillo, thou owest more to wine than even to thine own father ; thou art indebted to him for life only once, whereas to wine thou art indebted for it every day. If thou art not *happy in thy cups*, sure no one ever was. Those who heard him laughed most heartily, while I as heartily cursed him in my own mind, for the cause and effect of this raillery. I have since reflected on the occasion I gave him for using me so ill, and confess my conscience reproaches me, though I generally came off second best.

CHAP.



## CHAPTER. V.

*Lazarillo quits his Service. Leaves his Master in a Scrape.*

THIS last trick of my master's determined me to put the resolution I had embraced of quitting him, in practice; and to make him repent of his conduct towards me, which I then thought very unmerited; to accomplish this purpose, I made use of the following means.

The day after the last mentioned adventure, we set out to beg charity in the town; it had rained very much, and continued to do so still; we therefore took our station under a porch in one of the capital streets, where a  
number

number of passengers going by, gave us the best chance of gaining alms. We continued there till night, when the rain still increasing, my master said, "Lazarillo, this rain is very unlucky; we had better return home." To do this, it was necessary to pass over a little rivulet, which the rain had very much enlarged. I had observed, that opposite to one part of it, there was a deep hole into which all the mud, offals, and ordure of the neighbourhood were thrown. I formed my plan from this observation, and as we approached the rivulet, said, "master, the rain has increased this stream so much since the morning, that there is but one place where we can get over it, and even then we must give a good jump; but if you will follow my directions, you shall escape without being wet." You are in the right,  
Lazarillo,

Lazarillo, replied he ; it is very un-wholesome to have wet feet."

I observed, when the passengers were gone, of which there were not many then, as the rain was very heavy, and leading my tyrant just opposite to the above mentioned hole, said, " we are come now to the narrowest part ; give a good jump, and you will be safe lodged." As it rained so hard, the old man was impatient to get home ; he therefore said, place me where I must leap, and do you go over first. I obeyed him, and took my measure so well, that when, according to my directions, he gave a good spring, he fell up to his chin in this sweet bath. Surprise and rage together, I suppose, almost choaked him, for he struggled without speaking a word. I took the opportunity  
this



this silence gave to make my adieu; saying, you see my good master, I have profited by your lessons and example; I have made use of my *power*, and you feel the effect of it." *Every dog has his day!*

As you had so good a nose at a sausage, I wonder it should fail you in smelling a feast. I then burst out laughing; and added, good bye! heaven help you! On this the old fellow recovered from his stupefaction; he roared like a town bull, and I took to my heels, and run as if one of those animals had in reality been behind me. I did not stop till I got to the next village, and never have heard of my old master from that day to this. I confess, I have not given myself a great deal of trouble in the enquiry.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Lazarillo enters into the Service of a Curate of Macqueda. His Master's Avarice; and his Misery in consequence.*

NOT thinking myself safe where I was, I made the best of my way to another village at a greater distance, which was named Macqueda: here, for my sins, I met with a priest, whom I supposed was the curate of the place, as he proved. I went up to him to beg alms; he asked me if I could assist at the performance of mass. I replied in the affirmative; for though the old blind man used me very ill in some respects, I must, in justice to him, own, that he did not fail to give me some useful instructions; this was among the number.

The

The priest, on this information, took me into his service, and I soon found that I had got *out of the frying-pan into the fire*; for though the old man was avarice itself, I swear his covetousness was prodigality, when compared with this man's. If the quintessence of avarice had been squeezed out of the hearts of all the misers on earth, it would not have equalled what he possessed. I know not whether it was born with him, or whether he had assumed it as a part of his profession.

He had in an antichamber a large trunk, with an excellent lock to it, the key of which was tied with a long string to his doublet: whenever he came from church, the sacrament bread brought from thence was deposited by himself in this chest, and  
he



he was very careful in observing that it was locked. In all other houses I perceived there were appearances of some provision for the family, either bacon hung up in the chimney corner, cheeses, whose agreeable scent delighted the nose, or at worst, some crust of bread to be picked up; but my master encouraged no such prodigality; he even forbid me to look at them when they came in my way, telling me, it was by subduing my appetites, that I must reach heaven.

Our larder consisted of a box of onions, and the key of this was so carefully secured, that I could not, if I had been starving, have found means to get one more than my usual allowance; which was given every four days. I was presented then with four onions. Sometimes indeed, when he  
had

had company, he would give me the key of this precious repository, saying, at the same time, “make haste back, I desire; you think of nothing but eating all day long. Would any body suppose this young knave was quite an epicure?” To hear him run on thus, one would have thought the greatest rarities were kept in his larder, whereas, I swear, the miserable box of onions were the only things to be found there, and these he counted so regularly, that if I unfortunately played the voluptuary, in taking one more than my allowance, I paid very dear for it.

The people of this district are allowed to eat sheeps’ heads on a Saturday. My master, on one of these days, sent me to buy one, which cost three maravedas. When it was baked,  
he

he eat the eyes, tongue, brains, and all the meat; in fine, when he had made a complete skeleton of it, he handed me the dish, saying, "there, Lazarillo, for once in thy life thou shalt have a feast; confess that thou wilt fare better than the pope." "Heaven grant you such all the days of your life," muttered I to myself.

At the end of three weeks, which I had passed in his service, I grew so weak that I could hardly support myself on my legs. I was making large strides towards that place which we can approach without the use of limbs, viz. the grave, when providence, and my own industry, furnished me with a temporary relief.

I had set my brain to work day and night, to hit upon some expedient

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that



that might procure me a reprieve from being starved to death, but was long unsuccessful ; for though I had been as cunning as twenty devils, it would not have availed me ; there was nothing on which to exercise my genius ; or if there had, opportunity would have been wanting ; for I had no such object to deal with as my old blind man ; on the contrary, my new master had the eyes of Argus. When we were at mass, he was more occupied in watching me, than in attending to the duties of his function ; he kept one eye on his parishioners, and the other on my hands, whenever the offerings were made ; and so exactly did he keep the account, that during the whole time of my living (or rather dying) with him, I could not get possession of a single clane.

He

He never gave me the trouble to fetch any wine for him ; for he was so excellent a manager, that he contrived to make the little that remained of what was used on Sundays at the church, last him the rest of the week. This he also kept in the chest ; and, by way of concealing his avarice, he used to say to me, “ it is required of people of our profession, my child, to live in temperance and sobriety ; and I wish to shew my brethren an example.” But the miserable wretch lied like the devil ; for whenever he could indulge his appetite at other people’s expence, which was the case at funerals, and upon some other occasions, he would eat like a wolf, and drink like a templar. Here, heaven pardon me for it, I must confess, I never so much desired the death of my neighbour, as I did at

D 2

this

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this time; indeed, it was the only means I thought of preserving my own life; and *charity begins at home*. Hence therefore, I prayed most fervently, that God of his infinite mercy would take unto himself at least one of our parishioners every day.

When we were called into pray by any one who was very ill, the curate had no occasion to desire me to be devout; I was too much interested in the event, not to pray with all my soul. To be sure I did not adhere strictly to the form of prayer used on these occasions, viz. that providence would dispose of the sick man according to its good will; but prayed, that he might be received immediately into Paradise. If any one escaped after this, I wished them at the devil a thousand times, whereas my blessing  
ever



ever went with those who had the charity to die.

I watched over all the invalids as anxiously as if I had been the heir of each ; and like my brethren, the black coats in the air, anticipated my feast while the body had still breath in it. Often when I passed a decrepit wretch, who had one foot in the grave, I thought within myself,—there goes a supper for Lazarillo. I had attained such a degree of perfection in the art of calculating on these occasions, that my feast days were almost as sure of arriving according to my prediction, as those marked in the calendar. But in six months which I passed with the curate, only twenty of these red letter days presented themselves, and they but contributed to make fasting more intolerable to me ; in short, I began

at length to wish for my own death, instead of that of others ; but it seemed to elude my grasp, though always in view.

It often came into my head to quit my master, but I was restrained by the following reasons. In the first place, I was so weak that I could not depend on my legs to carry me out of reach. In the next, I considered that my first master having put me, by starving and ill usage in the road to the grave ; and the second, driven me to the very brink of it ; if I had ventured on a third, he might have pushed me in (as I always dreaded falling from bad to worse) : and there were times when I did not quite relish the thought of being no more heard of. Besides these reasons, I had another ; the curate had taught  
me

me to read, and I was learning to write ; I was not so perfect in this last as I wished, and I was anxious to make every advantage in my power of the wretch before I quitted him. I hope my readers will felicitate me and himself on the effect of the last cause that determined me, since to it he is indebted for these delightful memoirs.



## CHAPTER VII.

*The seasonable Visit of a Tinker.*

I MUST confess, notwithstanding all my reasoning, that I found it very difficult to support myself under so much misery, and had called upon every saint in the calendar so long to no purpose, that I began to think I was forsaken by heaven and earth too. One day, that by good luck, the curate was out, as I was deploring my wretched condition, a tinker came to the door, or rather, I believe, it was my guardian angel, who was suffered in pity to my misery to take that form for my relief. He enquired if there was any thing for him to mend. Alas! thought I to myself,  
if

if you could mend all that requires it in this house, I would furnish you with employment enough. This reflection was succeeded by one which certainly was inspired from above. "Master, said I; I have had the misfortune to lose the key of this chest, and am afraid the curate will punish me severely if he discovers it; pray try, if among that large bunch of keys that you have there, if one will not fit the lock; I will find a means to repay you for your trouble, and you will do me a very great service."

The *angelic* tinker, without any more intreaties, set about trying the keys, and as I watched him in all the eagerness of hope, prayed most fervently for success. His stock was almost exhausted in vain, when, to my agreeable surprise, for I had almost

D 5                      given

given the thing up, the chest was opened. It seemed to me as if at the same time heaven was opened to my view. With such rapture did I behold the bread ! In a transport of joy I said to the tinker ; “ my friend, I have no money to pay you, but instead of it, I will give you one of those loaves ; take your choice.” He took me at my word, and chose the best, with which he went away very well satisfied, but still not half so pleased as me. Well, said I to myself, I have heard, “ *it is a long lane that has no turning ;*” I find it true ; and that “ *it never rains but it pours.*”

I did not, however, take immediate advantage of the benefit of my key, for I was afraid the curate would miss the bread, if more than one loaf was taken at a time ; and indeed, know-  
ing



ing it was in my power to satisfy my hunger, served in a great measure to appease it; I concluded too, that it was impossible I should ever be plagued again by the approaches of famine; that he would never dare to attack me in future. As I was employed thus by the delightful hopes of having gained a complete victory over my enemy, my master came in, and happily did not miss the loaf.

As soon as his back was turned next day, I opened the chest and took out one of the *blessed* loaves, which was out of sight before my master could have said grace. I then shut the chest, and locked it very carefully; after which, I proceeded to sweep the room. I performed this with the utmost cheerfulness, for I was in such spirits, I thought I trod in air, and

D 6                      supposed

supposed my present happiness must last for ever. My transports lasted all that day, and the next ; but I was too unfortunate to remain long at ease.

I was seized with a panic the third day, when I observed my devil of a master most unseasonably approach the chest, which he rummaged over and over an hundred times, counting the loaves as often. I seemed to take no notice during this unfortunate search, but offered up my prayers to all the saints in heaven. Blessed Saint John, said I, have pity on thy servant, and blind this lynx.

After having for a considerable time calculated by his fingers, the days, and then the sacred loaves, he said, “ well truly, if this chest  
was

was not so well secured, I could have sworn somebody had been stealing my bread ; however, I shall be more exact in future in keeping the account. Let me see, there are now nine loaves and a half ; my best way, I believe, will be to mark them on the lid. Lazarillo, fetch me a piece of chalk.” I obeyed him, however, unwillingly, for I thought it was all over with my feasting. He marked the number in a capital figure on the lid, and then locked it up, chalk and all.

I was giving myself up to despair at this cruel stroke, when my good genius again presented me with an idea to prolong my enjoyment. My master, as I have said, had taught me to write ; and I had also learnt a little arithmetic. I hoped to shew on this occasion, that I had profited as much  
by



by the lessons given me in this place, as in the last; I wished to prove that I knew *two and two made four*.

In order to be very secure in the prosecution of my new plan, I got some old writings of my master's, containing his calculations, of which he was very fond; when his back was turned, I set about copying the figures, which I did so exactly at last, that it would have deceived even him. I deferred, however, the completion of my project for a day or two, when I thought his suspicion would be lulled. I prepared then to repay the self-denial I had practised. I went to that beloved chest, which, from an enemy, I had converted into a kind friend; and by the magical power of figures, conjured a loaf out of it. I then shut it down carefully, and resolved to be moderate,

moderate, that I might avoid giving suspicion. My master did not discover the imposition, or else doubted the evidence of his own senses; for in substituting one figure for another, I had so exactly counterfeited his characters, that he would have sworn to them. We went on very well for a week; but as *security begets carelessness*, I became inattentive to the rules I had laid down for myself; and thought, that instead of the morsel I allotted, I might as well satisfy my appetite. I did this, by devouring a whole loaf. But I soon found the truth of what I had been so often taught, that “the gratification of inordinate appetites, brings its own punishment;” for I perceived next day, my master’s suspicions were again roused: but I thought myself so secure from detection, that I continued my indulgence.

The

The curate, however, was too cunning for me, for without saying any thing, he rubbed out the chalk from the lid of the chest, and put the account down in his pocket-book.

When I saw that there was now no longer any hopes for me, I muttered a thousand curses against the avaricious monster. I thought I saw death coming to seize me; and the very idea of the miseries I was to endure, made me suffer them by anticipation.

When he was gone out of the house, I placed myself on my knees before the chest. I looked at the loaves, counted them, smelt them, and gave them a thousand kisses. After this, I took a thin slice from one that had  
been



been cut, and this was all that I dared to do.

Thus I went on for several days, more wretched than ever; for my stomach being accustomed to more nourishment, grumbled and growled excessively at the privation; the pains of hunger seemed more insufferable than ever. I thought I must die. When alone, my sole employment was to open and shut the chest, to contemplate the blessed bread, which I, however, was ready to curse, because I could not make it subservient to my purpose.

Oh ye, my fellow sufferers! who have had all that is most dear to ye brought to your view without a possibility of enjoying it; whether you are an epicure, who have seen a turtle;  
a vo-

a votary of Bacchus, who has beheld the sparkling goblet filled to the brim; a lover, blessed by the smiles of your Chloe, or that Chloe who has contemplated “the sweetest cap” that ever came out of the hands of a milliner, oh, judge of my feelings on this occasion by your own, and commiserate the unfortunate Lazarillo.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Lazarillo plays the Part of a Mouse.*

**B**ORN to be the sport of fortune, when I thought my misfortune irremediable, a new idea brought me relief; 'tis said, "*hunger sharpens the wit*;" it certainly set mine to work. One day that I was considering the chest with fixed attention, I began to think, that as it was very old, and even broke in some places, I might contrive so as to make my master believe the mice had made their way into it. As to taking a whole loaf, that I found was rendered impossible; but what was to prevent my playing the mouse, to gain some relief; I thought the scheme so feasible, that



that I resolved to rehearse my part immediately. I therefore took a lump out of three or four of the loaves, and then holding them over the chest, I scratched the hole with my nails, so as to give it the appearance of having been knibbled; this was done so well, that I had no fear of detection; and once more experienced the satisfaction of being freed from the cruel cravings of hunger.

When dinner time came, my master beheld the fine works that had been carried on in his garrison. He immediately attributed it to the rats, and began to examine the chest. Perceiving the holes, he said, “see here, Lazarillo, what a siege has been laid to the bread last night.” I was very much surprised of course, and asked him what it could possibly be? What,  
answered

answered he, why some mad rats to be sure, who would know the devil, if they met with him." Take care of thyself then, thought I, if rats are after that food, for thou art akin, I'll swear.

We sat down to dinner, and this trick was of twofold advantage to me, for he gave me more bread than usual, carefully paring away all round where he thought the rats had been, and handing it me, saying, "there, Lazarillo, eat that; it is very good; mice are clean animals." My daily allowance was thus increased, and I may surely boast, *that I gained my bread by the work of my hands*, (not to say a word of my nails.)

We had no sooner finished our meal, (if that can be said to be finished which  
was

was never probably began) than my heart died away within me, to see the provident priest take the old nails out of the walls, and pick up all the pieces of wood that lay about, to stop up the holes in the chest; this he performed so effectually, that he did not leave a passage for even a fly.—Alas! thought I, how short lived are all the pleasures of this miserable world. I hoped I had secured a permanent relief from my miseries, instead of which, my persecutions are again commenced; certainly I was born under an unlucky planet; my fate pursues me; it is that which inspires this wicked curate with so many inventions to undermine my plans. Yet, I believe, he little suspects, that while he blocks up those passages, he is shutting out all my comfort, stopping



ping *my* labours, and the fruit of them too.

I made these reflections, while this jack of all trades was handling his hammer with all the dexterity of a master carpenter. When he had done, he said, in a great passion, I am prepared for you now, I think, ye vile rats; henceforth, cursed spawn, go elsewhere to plunder, for I think you will get no booty here.

He was mistaken, however, in his imaginary security, for my wits seemed to increase with the occasion there was for exerting them. Possessing myself of an old knife, I seized the first favourable opportunity, and went to work upon the chest, which being very rotten and wormeaten, soon yielded to the efforts of the knife; and

and I easily gave it the appearance of being done by the rats or mice ; and thus once more escaped the jaws of famine.

Next day my master went to the chest, and on seeing the confusion made there, cursed the vermin after all the forms prescribed by our church. What can be the cause, said he (when he had recovered his temper sufficiently to reason) that these vile rats have only taken it into their heads to annoy me within these few days ;" and faith he had a right to be surpris'd, for there was not a house in the kingdom that could claim so just a privilege to be exempted from the visits of these gentry, who do not in general chuse to reside where there is nothing to be got.

My

My indefatigable master fet himself again to work to stop up the holes, and I, to follow his example, as industriously made others; so that by our mutual labours, the miserable chest in a few days was as full of nails and pieces as an old cuirass.

As he found at length that his labours were in vain, he began to think of some other means to avoid the depredations of the enemy; but his avarice being too great to permit him to purchase another trunk, he resolved to get a mouse-trap, that he might be revenged of the wicked animals.

He borrowed one immediately of his neighbours, who also were obliged to furnish him with the cheese to bait it, and placed it in the trunk. This was an additional feast to me; and



though I did not require any thing to sharpen my appetite, I was nevertheless pleased with this relishing morsel. My master was ready to hang himself when he found the bread still gnawed, the cheese taken, and no mouse caught. He went to the neighbour who had lent him the trap, to enquire how it could happen that the cheese was taken away, and the mouse not caught. They told him it was impossible, and that there was something very extraordinary in the affair.

I believe some of the good folks began to think the devil paid my master a visit, and they would not have been sorry to see him plagued a little more, for they detested him on account of his avarice and other ill qualities. This I gathered from  
hearing

hearing one of them say to his companion with rustic archness, "*Oh yes; our curate is very charitable; he boils an egg of a Sunday, and gives the broth to the poor to feed on the rest of the week.*"

## CHAPTER IX.

*Lazarillo becomes a Serpent; is discovered; punished;  
and sent away.*

ONE of the oldest men in the neighbourhood recollected to have heard that in the time of the late curate, there had been a serpent seen in the house. This was enough; the serpent was immediately supposed to be the author of all the mischief.

As the form of the serpent enabled it with ease to possess itself of the cheese, without running any risk, it was agreed on all hands that this must be the case. My master was terribly alarmed at the idea, so much so, that he no longer got any rest. He was always  
on



on the watch; and if the worms did but crawl along their old domain, his fears converted the noise into the gnawings of the serpent. On these occasions he would jump up in his bed, and with a long stick placed for the purpose under the bolster, he struck the chest with all his might, to make the serpent quit it. The noise he made alarmed the neighbourhood; and as it was impossible for me to sleep, I used to lay awake and enjoy the scene.

To add to my poor master's tribulation, he was told by those he consulted on the occasion (and it was perpetually the subject of his conversation) that these animals loved heat; and that from this circumstance they were often found in the cradles of young infants, whom they seldom

failed to bite or kill. Supposing then that the same accident might happen to him, or that the serpent might attack me first, and then come to him, he would come in the night to me, and taking hold of the mattrafs on which I lay, turn it topsy turvy, and me with it. Sometimes I pretended to be asleep, and he would say to me in the morning, "boy, wert thou not disturbed last night? I was in pursuit of the serpent, and I firmly believe he sheltered himself in your bed, for they always seek warmth. "Heaven forbid, said I; I hope it wont come to me, for I am frightened out of my senses at the very thoughts of it."

3

The havock continuing without the the curate's having any suspicion of the real cause, he went his rounds  
every

every night, overturning all the miserable furniture, like a hobgoblin, to find the serpent. I began to be afraid, that in turning every thing upside down, that he would toss the key out of my pocket, which would have discovered the whole affair. I therefore thought, that my best way would be to put the key in my mouth when I went to sleep. It was but small, though it belonged to a large chest; for the curate, who used often, *rob Peter to pay Paul*, in order to avoid the expence of a lock, had taken one from an old portmanteau, which he used to lock up his cinders in during the winter, and had now confided the larder to its care. I had been so accustomed with my last master to make a repository of my mouth that it became quite easy to me; I have often held twelve or fourteen maraveda's



in it, and contrived to eat at the same time. If I had not possessed this faculty, the devil of any thing in the shape of coin should I have had ; for the blind man used to search me so strictly, that he even felt the seams of my clothes, for fear I should conceal any thing,

I have heard that the mouth of man is, in general, the source of all the good or evil that befalls him. I am sure mine was the cause of the principal benefits or misfortunes of my life. In the present instant it seemed to befriend me. I put the key in that strong hold every night, and went to sleep very quietly, not supposing it possible that my master could find it there ; but when a misfortune is to happen, how vain are all our attempts to avoid it.

One

One night, when I was fast asleep with my mouth half open, as I generally slept, the key escaped from its confinement, and got into such a position, that as I drew my breath, it entered the hole of the key, and produced a loud whistling.

My master was awakened, and starting up, concluded it was the serpent's hissing that had thus disturbed him; supposing himself now sure of his prey, he arose softly, took his stick in his hand, and approaching the place whence the noise proceeded, got to the bottom of my bed; he then stooped, and lifting up the stick with both hands, directed it according to the information of his ears, which were such skilful advisers, that the blow came so violently on my head, it left me senseless.

He said afterwards, that finding (I suppose from my screaming) he had struck me so furiously instead of the serpent, he came up, and called me as loud as he could; from my making no answer, he began to shake me; but finding that I was all over blood, he ran in a violent fright to get a light.

He quickly returned, and found me groaning, but without having recovered my senses, and the key half out of my mouth: at first he could not conceive what it was; however, taking hold of it, and observing its resemblance to the key of his larder, the mystery was unfolded at once. He went directly to try, and I suppose rejoiced in the revenge he had taken.

I lay for eight days speechless, and  
in-



insensible. When I came a little to myself, I found my head rolled up in a great quantity of linen, and all over plaisters. I enquired in a great surprize, what was the matter? The curate, in a tone of mockery, said, “the matter is, my honest lad, that *I found a snake in the grass*, and have caught both that and the mice in my trap.” I then began to *smell a rat*, and finding myself terribly sore, comprehended the greater part of what had happened.

Soon after an old woman came to dress my wounds; she expressed great satisfaction in finding I had recovered my senses, and said, I should do very well. My master's back being turned, she then told me all that had happened; for the curate had taken care to publish the story at full length. I

was cruelly afflicted to find myself discovered. However, at length, resolved to pluck up resolution, and make the *best of a bad bargain*.

From this time I began to recover, and, at the end of a fortnight, was declared out of danger. When my master heard this, he made me rise, and though I could scarce crawl, this charitable priest, taking me by the hand, led me to the door, saying at the same time, Lazarillo, I have no further occasion for you; I do not require so much genius as you possess. You are indeed only fit for the service of the blind; and happily I am no longer so. He then crossed himself with as much devotion as if he had seen the devil; went into the house and shut the door, leaving me to the care of Providence.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER X.

*Lazarillo enters into the Service of a Squire; what happened to him there.*

**I** THUS quitted the service of my second master; and though I was in the forlorn situation of having not a clane in the world, or food to eat, and was besides so weak I could scarcely crawl, I was yet sensible to a degree of satisfaction at being out of the clutches of such a cruel monster as the curate. I found, that *out of evil comes good*; for my miserable situation excited so much compassion in all who beheld me, that by the assistance they gave me, I was enabled to proceed as comfortably as was possible,



possible, in my circumstances, to Toledo.

In three weeks time I was perfectly recovered ; and this, which would have brought happiness to any other person, was to me a new misfortune ; for while I was ill, I obtained sustenance ; the instant I was well, I again ran the risk of being starved. Whenever I asked alms, the reply was ; “ are not you ashamed to beg at your age ? get some work, or look for some master, who will shew you how to gain a livelihood, you idle rascal.” “ And where are they to be found ?” muttered I ; to hear these people talk, one would imagine good masters grew in every street ; whereas, I am sure I have reason to know there is a plentiful scarcity of them.” As I went on in this grumbling strain, I perceived a  
person

person observing me ; he was very well dressed, and seemed to give himself the airs of a man of fashion. Coming up to me, he said, my lad, from what I have heard you utter, I understand you want a place ; if you will follow me, you will find a good master not so scarce as you suppose ; on the contrary, you will have cause to bless your stars for meeting with me. I followed him in a transport of joy, felicitating myself on my good fortune, which seemed to have procured me an excellent place ; For by the dress and air of the cavalier, I judged it must prove so.

It was in the morning that I met this adventure, which promised me so much happiness. My new master made me follow him half over the town ; we went through all the markets,

markets, and I expected every moment that he would purchase provision for the day. I cast a longing eye on every thing as we passed, but my master seemed not to regard them. I therefore supposed we were not yet come to the place where he made his purchases. We went on thus walking, till we came to the great church, which my master went into, performed his devotions with the utmost attention, nor left the church till every body else quitted it. By this time it was twelve o'clock. I then thought what a fool I was, to suppose that a man of fashion, like this cavalier, would buy his own provisions. I might have thought he would leave such offices to his maître d'hôtel, or his cook. These were my reflections as I went on, and the idea of the dinner I was going to partake of, made my mouth water.

The



The clock struck one, when we came to a house at which my master stopped. He then took off his cloak, and hung it over his left arm; after which he put his hand into his pocket and took out a key, with which he opened the door. All this he performed very leisurely, and with the utmost gravity. We entered into the house by a long dark passage, which did not promise much magnificence; there was, however, a court at the end of it; and the apartments were rather better than those I had been used to. When we were in the house, he asked me if my hands were clean; and seeing that they were, he ordered me to help him fold up his cloak; after this he went to a stone bench, on which he blew to disperse the dust, and placed the cloak on it: this ceremony over, he questioned me for a  
length

length of time very tedious to me, respecting my native place, and the cause of my coming to Toledo. I answered him as briefly as possible, for I thought it was time to make the soup and lay the cloth, instead of wasting the hours in gratifying an idle curiosity.

## CHAPTER XI.

*Lazarillo dines with Duke Humphry.*

AFTER having informed my master of all he wished to know, glossing over those parts which were not much to my credit, and enlarging on my good qualities, he remained for some time like one lost in thought.

I was placed exactly opposite to my master, my hat in my hand, swallowing my spittle for nourishment, and looking at him with eyes that said plainly, is it not dinner time? Two o'clock struck, and I found the cavalier as insensible still to the call of appetite, as if he had been a supernatural



pernatural being, who could exist without. And I soon began seriously to think I had got into the clutches of one of these spirits of whom I had heard a great deal in my childhood. The naked walls, the rooms without a chair, stool, table, or even an old chest, like that in my last place, with the dead silence which reigned; all together gave me the complete idea of an haunted house.

My master recollecting himself all at once, said, have you dined, Lazzarillo? No indeed, sir, replied I; you know I have attended you ever since eight o'clock this morning. Ay, true, said he, I had breakfasted when I met you, and I seldom take any thing else till supper; you must make shift therefore till then.

I was

I was ready to cry when I heard these words ; not so much from the hunger I felt, as from considering myself the constant victim of a cruel destiny. All the sufferings of my life came into my mind. I recollected, with a deep sigh, the presentiment I had when I thought of quitting the curate, that I should be worse off. Restraining my feelings, however, as well as I could, I replied ; you are very good, sir, to think of me ; but my constitution does not require much food ; both the masters I have lived with can vouch for me, that gluttony is not among the number of my faults." "Temperance is a great virtue in so young a person, rejoined my patron ; I like you the better for possessing that quality. It is so beastly to be always eating and drinking. Sobriety is the first characteristic of a  
good

good man. I bowed an assent to what he said, at the same time that in my heart I cursed the qualities he had been praising so eloquently, and which seemed to be so highly valued by the masters I had served. I wondered where they had learnt that a poor servant should live without food, to be good for any thing.

I got into a corner, and began to gnaw some crusts of bread that were left of those given me by charitable people. My master observing me, said, what have you got there, Lazarrillo? I shewed him the crusts, for my mouth was too full to speak. As I had approached him when he called me, he was within reach of my hand, from which he took the best of the bits of bread I held in it, saying at the same time, "faith, this bread  
seems



seems excellent!" It is too stale and hard to be good, sir, replied I; nay, answered he, "I will swear it is; who gave it you? Are you sure that the person who made it had clean hands?" Really, sir, I did not trouble my head about that; I took it without asking any questions, and eat it, as you perceive, without disgust." "You are in the right, returned my master, carrying the bread to his mouth, which he devoured with as much eagerness as I swallowed mine," repeating at every mouthful, "faith this bread is excellent!"

When I found that he made such dispatch, I thought it would be better to hasten my work, lest, if he had finished his crust first, he should take it into his head to help me finish the rest of mine.

We were both so industrious, that in a short time we had concluded our labours. My master gathered the crumbs up very carefully that had fallen on his doublet, and swallowed them: then went into another room, and brought an old broken jug, which he drank out of, and handed it to me. Affecting great sobriety, I told him I never drank wine. “Nor I either, replied my master; it is not healthy; it is water that I recommend to you.” I took the jug and pretended to drink; but it was not of thirst that I had occasion to complain.

## CHAPTER XI.

*The Squire's Bed. The Supper put off; the Reason.*

*A restless Night. The Sword.*

WE past the remainder of the day, he in asking questions, and I in answering them. When night was come, he took me into a room which he called his bed-chamber, saying, come Lazarillo, and make my bed; I will assist you in order to teach you how I like to have it done, and then you will be able to make it yourself. I went on one side of the bed, and he on the other; and heaven knows, it did not require a very great capacity to learn the art of making it, or much time to perform it in. The bedstead consisted

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of



of simply, a hurdle, composed of reeds, which stood on two tressles, so old, as well as uneven, that there was continual fear and danger too of their falling. My master's linen served for both mattrafs and sheets; but there was too little of it, and that little was too dirty to make much figure. We adjusted it, however, for the sake of saying it was done, rather than for any use it was of; the mattrafs being so scanty that one could count every reed of the bedstead as easily as the ribs of a neck of mutton, the quondam owner of which had died of a consumption. We then laid over all a counterpane, the colour of which, to this hour, I have never been able to guess.

— This being done, my master observed, that as it was very late, and  
there

there were a great many thieves about the streets, it would be dangerous to stir out of doors, therefore we must make shift for once without supper; that we should be better off another time. I desired him not to give himself any uneasiness about me; that I could do without supper very well for one night, or even more, if it were necessary. "So much the better for your health I repeat, (said he), you will live the longer." If, thought I, long life depended on abstinence, I am likely to live for ever; for I am sure, ever since I can remember, I have lived by regimen; and my present physician does not seem inclined to increase my allowance.

My master then went to bed, making a bolster of his doublet and hose rolled up together, and desired me to

F 2

sleep

sleep at his feet ; but may the *executioner* be my *executor*, if I closed my eyes all night. The hard reeds and my sharp bones did nothing but quarrel and fight the whole time. I had not a pound of flesh on my whole carcass, so much was I reduced by the hunger and misery I had suffered. And, added to this, I was seized with such a rage to eat, that I could not have slept on a bed of down.

To my great comfort, my master arose as soon as it was light, and began to help me brush his cloths. After which he washed himself and dressed his hair ; then putting on his sword, he said to me, looking on it with an air of complacency ; “ you cannot conceive, Lazarillo, what an excellent blade this is ; I would not part with it for all the riches of the east. The  
finest



finest steel of Damascus is the commonest iron in comparison with it. See, added he, drawing it out of the sheath, and making it slide through his fingers; I could divide a hair with it". Well, for my part, thought I, gentility may be a fine thing, but I would rather be able to divide a peck loaf with my teeth, though they are not steel, than possess the sharpest sword in the world.

He then put up his sword, hung a great chaplet round his neck, and with a slow pace, his body erect, his left arm raising the end of his cloak, the right hanging down, and an air of importance, he went out, saying to me, Lazarillo, take care of the house while I go to mass; make the bed and sweep the room, and then you may go to fill the jug with water. But

be very careful in shutting the door after you, for fear of thieves: and as I may return perhaps before you, I will shew you a nail to hang the key on.

When he had done this, he went out and walked so stately, that any body would have supposed, to look at him, he was a prince of the blood. "*Blessed are they* (said I, following him with my eyes) *who can find a remedy for every evil.*" How little do those think who see my master, what his real situation is; they doubtless judge, from his satisfied air, that he eats and drinks well, and has an excellent bed to sleep on; nevertheless, there is one who knows that this cavalier, whose appearance is so elegant, whose air is so contented, had no subsistence yesterday, but what he received from  
a few

a few crusts of bread given him by his poor servant, who had carried them a night and day in his pocket, among various other scraps, not of the most relishing kind. Well may it be said, that *one half of the world knows not how the other half live.*



## CHAPTER XII.

*The Breakfast. Lazarillo appointed Purveyor to the Squire.*

I CONTINUED to look after my master till he turned the corner of the street; I then went into the house to see if there was any thing to set to rights, but after searching from one end of it to the other, I could find nothing but the forlorn bed to make. When I had done it, I took the jug to the water-side; as I was filling it, I chanced to turn my eyes towards a garden, where I spied my master; he was entertaining two ladies in masks. They were of that order of females who make it their business to go and breakfast in parties by the river-

river-side, that the air may give them an appetite, but who do not take with them wherewithal to satisfy their hunger, from the hope of finding somebody gallant enough to provide for them. The good nature of our young cavaliers has rendered this a fashionable rendezvous.

Our squire was, as I have said, placed between the two ladies playing the Ganymede, and as I judged from his manner, saying a thousand soft things to them. They on their part supposing he was caught, asked him, as I overheard, to order them a collation. My poor master whose purse was as empty as his stomach, turned pale at this request, and began to stammer out some awkward excuses. The good women, not suspecting the real cause of his refusal, beset him with such

foul language, that he was glad to escape from their fury, by taking French leave. I was occupied while this farce was performing, in gnawing some old cabbage stumps, which was all my breakfast; and when I had done I took up the jug and went home. My master was not returned, so wanting something to do, I went to look for a broom to sweep the rooms, which were villainously dirty; but the search was fruitless; there was not even the stump of one. I therefore had nothing for it but to wait with patience till my master came home, who I hoped would bring something for dinner.

I waited till two o'clock in vain; no master came. My patience was then exhausted, and *hunger which* (they say) *breaks through stone walls*, became  
so



so pressing that I was as ravenous as a wolf: I quitted my den, therefore, and resolved to betake myself to my former trade. The art of begging, I might be said to have sucked in with my mother's milk, and I had acquired all the secrets of the trade from my old blind man, who was complete master of his business. I made such good use of my knowledge on this occasion, that notwithstanding the little charity to be met with among the inhabitants of Toledo, I had gained by my skill, before the clock struck four, six pounds of bread at least, four of which I lodged safely in the unfurnished apartments of my stomach, where there was room enough for them to arrange themselves at their ease. The other two I put into my pocket.

In my way home I passed through a market, where a good woman gave me, for the love of God, a piece of shin of beef, and some fried tripe. When I arrived, I found my poor master, who had folded up his cloak and laid it by, taking great strides up and down the court. As I came in he approached me I thought to scold me, but I was mistaken ; he was of a very peaceable disposition ; he only enquired where I had been. Why truly, Sir, said I, I waited very patiently till two o'clock, when finding you did not return, I went into the town to ask charity of some good people : they gave me what you see, added I, shewing him the bread and tripe, which I had taken for the purpose out of my pocket.

I perceived my master's eyes  
sparkled

sparkled at the sight ; he attempted however to conceal it, and said, you staid so long away that I did not wait dinner for you. You have done right ; it is better to beg than steal ; but take care of my honour in this business ; do not say you are in my service. Indeed I am not much known in this place, which I wish with all my soul I had never entered. Never fear Sir, said I, the world is too much taken up with its own concerns, to ask me any questions ; and I assure you, I shant seek any one to chatter about what does not concern them. Well said, Lazarillo, returned my master ; eat poor child then, what you have picked up ; I hope, please God, we shall be better off soon ; the truth is, I believe that this house brings me ill luck. I have known perpetual misfortune since I entered its cursed walls ;



walls; it is doubtless placed under an unlucky planet; there are many houses in these circumstances, and they even extend their fatal influence to all who reside in them. But I promise you that as soon as this month is out I will not remain here, even tho' they should offer it me for nothing.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER III.

*The Excellence of the Squire's Sauce for the Shin  
of Beef. Lazarillo finds his Master's Purse.*

I SET myself down on the bench,  
and began to eat, to make my  
master believe I had fasted till then.  
I perceived the good squire fixed his  
eyes very stedfastly on me, and  
watched every morsel I put into my  
mouth. I hope Heaven will have as  
much pity for me in time of need, as  
I had for this poor man. I felt as  
much for him as he did for himself;  
experience taught me what his suf-  
ferings were; I knew not however  
how to act to relieve him, for as he  
had told me he had dined, I thought,  
from a point of honour, he would  
refuse

refuse my offer, though I heartily wished he would partake my fare, as it was better than what he had shared the day before, and I was pretty well off.

We soon settled this matter, for in walking backwards and forwards he approached me, saying, " I never saw any body eat with so much pleasure as you, Lazarillo; it is enough to give one an appetite to see you; I really think that though one should have just dined, it would be impossible to observe you without feeling a desire to eat." This hint I resolved to profit by, and answered that *good tools made good workmen often*, for I found the shin of beef so admirably well dressed and so nicely seasoned, that it was impossible not to relish it. " What did you say, Lazarillo? a  
shin



shin of beef (interrupted he) tis the thing in the world I like the best ; in my opinion it is better than all the partridges and pheasants in the world." " I wish you would taste this then, sir, (said I, holding it to him with a nice slice of bread) you will find it fit for the table of a king."

Without further entreaty, my master set himself down beside me, and began to eat, or rather to devour what I gave him, for the bones were hardly spared. " How delicious, cried he, is this beef ; how nicely would it eat with garlic sauce."

Humph, thought I, you have furnished a much better sauce. " Truly, said the squire, when he had done, I have eat with such a relish, that one would think I had not tasted any thing

thing before this whole day." And if one were to swear you had not, said I to myself, I don't think there would be any danger of perjury.

He then asked me for the jug of water, which I observed was quite full. It was not likely that if he had remembered to eat, he should have forgot to drink; after taking a hearty draught, he desired me to do the same; and thus our feast ended.

We passed eight or ten days in this manner, that is to say, my poor master went regularly to snuff up the fresh air in the streets, walking like a nobleman, and leaving to me the care of providing his dinner.

I often at this time used to reflect on the strange fate that attended me ;  
after

after having quitted two masters, who were so miserly that they almost starved me to death, I had fallen into the hands of one, who so far from giving me food, was reduced to require it of me. I however bore him no ill will on this account; on the contrary, I pitied him very sincerely; and even sometimes deprived myself of what I wanted, to give it to him.

I was convinced one day of his actual poverty, for going into another room he left his breeches on the bed. I took the opportunity, in order to gratify my curiosity, to examine the pockets, in which I found nothing but a little shorn velvet purse neatly folded up, in which there was no appearance of money, or of there having been any for ten years. “ He is poor and unfortunate, said I; *one can have no more*



*more of a cat than her skin ; he cannot give what he has not."*

This was not the case with the villainous beggar, or the avaricious curate who had starved me, though providence had been bountiful to them ; and their acquisitions cost them only the one, a *pax tecum*, and the other, a *God reward you*. It was these monsters I hated ; as for the poor squire he could do no otherwise than he did : his misfortunes made such an impression on me, that I declare to this day, when I meet a cavalier like him with an affected gravity, and the airs of quality, I cannot help looking on him with an eye of pity, supposing always that he lives as wretchedly as the poor squire.

But in spite of our poverty, I was  
very

very well contented in my situation ; there was but one thing that vexed me, respecting my master ;—this was his ridiculous vanity. I wished him to have less pride with his poverty : but I knew it was in vain to give myself any concern about it ; these kind of people, though they are not worth a crown in the world, will not dispense with a jot of their consequence. Heaven mend them ! no other power can prevent their dying else with this sin on their heads.

## CHAPTER XIV.

*The Extremities to which the Squire and Lazarillo were reduced, by an Order of the Police. Fortune sends them a Real.*

I WAS thus beginning to feel more content than I had ever known, when a new misfortune befel me. There was a great scarcity of corn this year, on which account a new regulation took place in the police ; an order came out that all the poor who were strangers should quit Toledo immediately ; if any were found they were to be whipped out of the town. This was executed with such severity, that for three or four days, there was nothing to be seen but troops of beggars,



gars, whom they drove out of the gates.

I was so frightened that I no longer dared to go in search of food ; we kept a complete fast for two days, in which time we not only lived without eating, but without speaking. It was luckily for me that I had made acquaintance with some poor women in the neighbourhood, who got their livelihood by weaving laces. They saved my life ; for though it was not in their power to assist me very materially, yet they prevented my starving.

I felt more compassion for my master than myself. I cannot conceive how he subsisted for eight days, that I never saw him put any thing into his mouth ; nor where his jaws, in fact, much fatigued by exercise during  
that

that time, I believe, for he came home every day as lank and lean as a greyhound. He used however to stand at the door with a tooth-pick in his hand, though heaven knows he had little occasion for it; yet he thought himself bound in honour to carry on the farce.

We had continued in this wretched state some time, when, by what means I know not, my master became possessed of a real. He came home with looks that denoted his satisfaction, and said to me in a tone that confirmed it, here, Lazarillo, fortune seems at length to be more favourable to me; take this real and go to market; buy meat, bread and wine; we will enjoy ourselves for once; to complete your satisfaction, learn that I have hired another house; we will stay no longer

longer than to the end of the month in this vile unlucky place. Unfortunate was the hour in which I first put my foot into it! I do believe it is this cursed house that brings me ill luck; every day convinces me more of it; sure it was ordained by fate, that famine and despair should be its only inhabitants; that none should ever eat or drink under this dismal roof. Didst thou ever see so gloomy an house, added he? I perfectly agreed with my master. He then bid me go to market with all possible speed; let what will happen, said, he we will enjoy ourselves to day.

I took the real and the jug, and flew along the streets with a joy easy to be conceived; but it was soon interrupted, as I shall relate; it was

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ordained that I never was to feel joy, without tasting sorrow at the same time. They say *misfortunes never come alone*; I am sure my pleasures did not, for they were always accompanied by some cross circumstances.

As I was going along, considering how I should dispose of my money to the best advantage, I met a funeral, which was attended by several priests, and a vast concourse of people. I placed myself close to the wall, in order to give them room to pass; when the corpse was gone by, I saw a woman, (the widow of the deceased, I suppose) dressed in deep mourning, and attended by some others, who rent the air with their cries; the first, in order to express the extent of her affliction, exclaimed, "alas! my poor dear husband, where are they going  
to

to convey you! they are carrying you to that dismal region, to that dark and wretched habitation, whose tenants neither eat or drink.

This description appeared to be so exactly suited to our abode, that when I heard her, I thought heaven and earth were coming together; I gave myself up to my fears, which told me they were certainly going with the dead body to our house.

I turned back immediately, and ran home faster than I had come; when I arrived, I shut the door as quick as possible, imploring my master, even with tears, to come and help me secure it that nobody might enter.

The squire appeared alarmed at  
G 2 my

my behaviour, attributing it to another cause, and asked me with some emotion why I shut the door in such a hurry, and seemed in such disorder. Oh, sir, said I, pray help me bar it; for they are coming to bring a corpse here this instant. "A corpse!" replied my master, in a voice of astonishment; Yes, sir, said I; I met it close by, and a woman exclaiming that they were going to carry her husband to that dismal house where people neither eat or drink, so I could not be mistaken; they will be here directly, sir.

When my master heard my story told in the most piteous voice, he burst into such a fit of laughter, that it was a considerable time before he could speak. I looked at him with astonishment, for I had expected he



he would be as much frightened as myself. I bolted the door, however, and stood with my back against it for security. The funeral and the croud passed by; and I trembled so much I could scarcely stand, nor could I be persuaded they did not mean to bring the dead body to us. At length my master, who was *more tired of laughing than eating*, said, you had reason certainly, Lazarillo, to think as you did from what the widow said, but since you perceive your mistake, open the door and make the best of your way to market. In God's name, sir, said I, let the funeral turn the corner.

My master perceiving me still overpowered by my fears, came himself to the door, which he opened in spite of my opposition; when I perceived the procession was really gone, I ven-

tured out. I purchafed wine, bread, and fome baked meat; with which I returned to the fquire. We had a moft fumptuous repaft, and were as happy as princes.

## CHAPTER XV.

*The Reason which induced the Squire to visit Toledo ;  
he entertains Lazarillo with an Account of his  
Fortune and Talents ; the latter not very profitable  
to him.*

I COULD not but feel a great curiosity to know, wherefore, my third master, the squire, had chosen to come and reside at Toledo, for I soon discovered that he was not a native of the place. After our feast this curiosity was satisfied ; my master being in good spirits, grew communicative, and gave me the following account of himself.

He told me he was of Old Castile, which he had quitted because he could not

G 4                      reconcile



reconcile it to himself to pull off his hat to a man of quality who lived in the neighbourhood. But sir, said I, if his rank and fortune made him your superior, as you acknowledge, I should think that you might have saluted him first, without feeling yourself degraded, if on his part he was not deficient in politeness. All that is very true, replied he; he was my superior; he returned my bow; but that was not enough in my opinion.

I was resolved that he should take his hat off before I touched mine. Well, for my part, returned I, I should not have regarded the matter so nicely. No, no, said my master, thou art young, and ignorant of these principles of honour which are in these days the noblest possessions of those who inherit them; but learn,  
that

that though I am only a simple squire, if I were to meet a prince in the street, and he did not take his hat off to me properly, I repeat to you *properly*, I swear that I would sooner traverse half the town to avoid him, than put it in his power to affront me a second time; for let me tell you, God and the king excepted, a gentleman has no obligation to any body, and it is not reasonable that he should sacrifice any of his privileges, while his conduct is irreproachable.

I remember one day, continued my master, I was near getting into a scrape with an officer of the place; in passing me, he said, God preserve you. I turned quick upon him, saying, who do you think you are speaking to, Mr. Jackanapes? do you suppose I am some clown like yourself with

G 5

your

your *God preserve you indeed!* learn to mend your manners, I desire. This had the desired effect on my gentleman; for ever after he bowed as soon as he saw me, and spoke in a proper manner.

I could not help interrupting my master here, saying, how, sir, is it possible that it can be an offence to any body to say *God preserve you?* What a fool thou art, replied the squire; it does very well for low born persons, but to those of my quality, nothing but your servant, sir, or your most obedient, will do. From this knowledge of my sentiments, continued he, you will judge how ill I could brook the behaviour of the nobleman I mention to you, who to confess all, used to make my blood boil with his, *God preserve you too,*  
when



when he met me. No, by heaven, never will I submit to be addressed with a *God preserve you*, by any body but the king, unless they tack a my lord to the end, to qualify it.

Into what hands have I fallen now, thought I; what assistance can I hope from a man who is angry that people wish God may preserve him.

“ I am not so ill off, continued my squire, as I appear, neither Lazarillo; for I am sole proprietor of a piece of land sixteen leagues only from Valladolid, fit to build upon, which would be worth two hundred thousand maravedas, or more, according to the money that was laid out upon it; and besides this I have a dove house, which is rather in a ruinous state at present to be sure, but if it were rebuilt, it

G 6

would

would bring in a profit of two hundred pigeons annually; there are a thousand other things I could mention of equal advantage, which I have given up rather than sacrifice my honour."

" I came to this place in hopes of finding some establishment, but I have not met with the success I have expected. I have found some priests, indeed, who would have assisted me; but these are a kind of people who tax the services they do one too highly. I have also met with some of your marquisses who would have retained me; but these gentlemen require one to undertake every thing; and if you take the charge of a purveyor, tis a thousand to one but you are dismissed without being paid, or gaining any thing but what one can catch  
with

with one's teeth ; at most if they happen to be surpris'd by a fit of conscience, as a recompence for your services they throw some old garment at your head, and think you are then vastly obliged to them."

But if one is so fortunate as to get into the service of a great man, tis quite another thing ; I know not whether to attribute the impossibility I have found of being received by such, to my ill luck, or to their taking some dislike to me ; however that may be, I am certain if I could obtain such an establishment, I should soon become a favourite of my master ; at least I would spare no pains to render myself agreeable to him. I could lie as well as another ; and in short, practise all these things so much in request now adays. I may without  
vanity



vanity boast of having talents for such a station ; I would praise all my master's actions, good, bad, or indifferent ; I would never tell him any thing to give him pain, however for his advantage the information might be ; I would in his presence appear to take a warm interest in all that concerned him ; when he was absent it would not so much signify, for you knew the *bow must not always be bent*. I should testify my zeal, at the expence of the servants, whom I would scold furiously when in his hearing. I would praise up to the skies those whom he approved, and abuse most unmercifully those he disliked. Then I would keep a register of every body's actions, and memorandums of all the scandal I heard, to entertain him with. In fine, I would put in practice all those arts so acceptable to

to the great men of the present age; for I am convinced that they do not care to have men of worth about them; on the contrary, they hold them in the utmost contempt, as poor idiots who know nothing of the world; who make them yawn, instead of amusing them. These are, I know, the opinions of our courtiers. I understand how to accommodate myself to their ways, but I am not, alas! so fortunate as to have an opportunity of exhibiting my talents.

## CHAPTER. XVI.

*In what Manner the Squire's Conversation was interrupted. Inventory of his Goods. He quits Lazarillo.*

THE poor squire was in such a communicative humour, and so delighted with his subject, that I know not when the conversation would have ended. His harangue was, however, interrupted by the entrance of a man and an old woman ; one demanded the the payment of the rent, the other the hire of the bed. They calculated together, and found there was owing to them for two months, more money than my master could have raised in twelve ; that is to say, thirteen reals.

The



The squire received them very politely, and said he was just going out to change a double pistole, and that if they would take the trouble to come in the evening, they should receive their money. He then, as he said, went out, never to return: the creditors failed not to come at the appointed time, but were obliged to defer their business till next day, as it grew late, and there was no appearance of the squire. I was afraid to sleep in the house alone, and therefore went to our neighbours, to whom I related what had happened, and they gave me a night's lodging.

Next morning the creditors returned to the charge; they enquired of the neighbours where the squire was; but the bird was flown. The good women told them I was his servant,  
and

and had the key of the house, which was all the information they could give. They asked me then what was become of my master? I told them I did not know; that I had never seen him since he went out to change the money; that I much feared he had taken the change, and given us the flip. The creditors on hearing this, went immediately to fetch an officer of justice, and a recorder; they returned together; demanded the key of the house in form; called together some witnesses; and opened the door in their presence to seize the effects of my master, and pay with a part of them what he owed.

They proceeded to search the whole house, which they found as empty as I have described; they then questioned me what was become of the furniture,

niture, the trunks, the hangings, and kitchen tackle? I told them I did not understand what they meant. "To be sure, said the landlord of the house, they have taken off all the goods in the night; seize that young knave, sir; he must be made to give an account of where they are taken to."

The officer came up to me, and seizing me by the collar, said, in order to frighten me, if I did not discover all, I should be thrown into a dungeon.

All the misfortunes of my life appeared trifles, when compared with this. I never was so frightened. I had been collared often, to be sure, by my old blind master, but never in so serious a manner. I was panic struck, and bursting into tears, promised to confess all.

"That's



“That’s a good boy, said the officer, softening his voice; tell the truth, and you have nothing to fear.” The recorder then seated himself on the stone bench to take the inventory, and desired me to give an account of my master’s effects. Sir, said I, my master informed me, that he had a fine piece of land to build upon; and besides that a dove house, rather in need of repair to be sure, he said.

“Well, said the creditors, though this may not be very valuable, it is enough, however, to pay us.” “But in what part of this place is the land and the dove-house situated? demanded the register.

It is not in this place, sir, (said I) it is in his own country. So, so, replied all at once, we are finely off. Pray,  
continued

continued the register, of what country is your master? He told me, replied I, that he was of Old Castile. The officer of justice and the recorder burst out a laughing at this reply, and said to those who had fetched them, we need make no further enquiry; this is enough to discharge the debt, however great it may be. The neighbours then informed them that I was a poor simple boy, who had only been a few days with the squire, and who was as ignorant of his circumstances as themselves. Alas! added they, the poor child has come every day to us for charity; we gave him all the assistance in our power, otherwise he must have been starved.

When they found I was innocent, they no longer threatened me; but the creditors did not get off so easily,  
for

for the officer and register began to enquire about payment for their time.

The creditors said, that as there was nothing found in the house, and therefore nothing to do, they could not claim any thing for their trouble. The others asserted, that they had left business of great consequence elsewhere, and would be paid for loss of time to attend them. High words arose; at length the officers seized the old quilt that belonged to the woman, and gave it in charge to a bailiff, who happened to be passing by; but though it was not a very heavy load, all chose to assist in carrying it off; each took hold of a part, and began to play at *the devil take the hindmost*. I looked at this diverting scene till I was tired, then took myself off.

I know



I know not how it ended, but this I know, that all ought to have been satisfied; for if they held fast, each would have a bit; the old quilt not being in a condition to resist any violent efforts.

Thus was I separated from my third master; and my destiny surely was rather singular. We every day hear of servants who leave their masters, but I believe I am the first servant whose master ever left him.

## CHAPTER XVII.

*Lazarillo enters into the Service of a Merchant of  
forged Bulls.*

I HAD now to seek a fourth master. Fortune presented me with one, whom I found to be a manufacturer of bulls. It was not his *modesty* that inclined him to give the credit of them to his Holiness. I leave my readers to guess his motive. If ever there was a compleat villain, it was him. Never was man more calculated for the trade he pursued, of making a market of the most sacred things; and of finding out the means of imposing on the world.

When he arrived in any town to dispose of his bulls, he went immediately

diately to visit the curate or vicars ; these he engaged in his interest, by making them presents of the finest fruits he could get, peaches, melons, and citrons, or something relishing for their table. He knew how to recommend himself to these gentry, and they in return recommended him, by assembling the parishioners to take his bulls.

My master, before he entered into particular conversation with his customers, always considered his ground well. If they were intelligent people, he took care not to broach his Latin, but paid his compliments in Spanish ; but if he found his hearers were ignorant, or one more celebrated for riches than genius, he then assumed the scholar, and harangued them with a rigmarole of gibberish, which he



passed off as Latin ; it might as well have been called Greek ; for such it would have seemed to those who understood Latin.

If my master found he could not dispose of his bulls by fair means, he made no scruple of having recourse to foul ; and the want of invention was not among the number of his deficiencies. I should never have done, were I to relate all the artifices he made use of to attain his purposes while I was with him ; one specimen will be sufficient, I think, to shew his knavery and wickedness.

The scene of this act lay in a town in the neighbourhood of Toledo. He had preached in favour of his bulls for three or four days, without his usual success ; even his former artifices

fices to promote their sale were employed in vain ; he was enraged, and wished himself and all the parish at the devil a thousand times ; part of his wish was granted, I believe ; for his highness seemed to accept his willing votary, and to give a proof of his protection to my master, inspired him with the trick he played.

He signified to the people that he was going to quit the place, and should publish the bulls for the last time on the following day.

He had an officer of justice with him, who was an accomplice on the occasion. After supper they went to cards ; and pretending to quarrel upon some point of the game, began to give one another very foul language.

My master called the officer a knave; he, in return, told him he was a cheat; one seized a candlestick, the other a sword: such a noise ensued, that the landlord and neighbours all poured in to know the cause, and to separate them, which last appeared to be a very difficult matter; for, by the efforts they made, one would have thought they were bent on destroying each other. Their tongues, however, were at liberty, and they exercised it; the officer continually repeating that my master was a cheat, and fabricated the bulls he wanted to dispose of. Finding they could not accommodate the quarrel, the bystanders took the officer to another house, and my master was left at the inn; so irritated did he seem, that they no longer attempted to appease him, but went their way; and we took ourselves to bed. The  
next



next morning my master went to church; the bell was rung to assemble the people to mass, and hear a sermon to exhort them to receive the bulls. The quarrel had made such a noise in the place, that it excited an universal curiosity in the neighbourhood to see my master. The church was crowded; and all present, I believe, had their suspicions about the bulls. From what I heard whispered, I thought our affairs in such a bad situation, that if I could have found a favourable opportunity, I should certainly have communicated my apprehensions to my master.

This famous delegate mounted the pulpit, and began to preach in an animated manner on the great advantages that would attend his hearers from their taking his bulls; and ex-

horted them not to attend to the scandal of evil-minded persons. In the midst of his discourse, the officer entered the church by the great door; after having said a prayer to himself, he raised his voice, and addressed the congregation in the following words. "Worthy people, I beseech you to give attention to what I am going to say; I shall not detain you long; but what I have to impart is of the utmost importance. When you have heard me, you will judge whether you ought to give any credit to this pretended delegate." Observing that the audience were attentive, he proceeded. "Having suffered myself to be seduced by that impostor who is now preaching to you, he took advantage of my weakness, to induce me to favor his imposition, and offered to share the profits with me; but happily

pily for my soul I have seen my error. I repent the injury I have done to others, and intended to do you. In consequence of this repentance, I here declare publickly that the bulls he recommends to you are fictitious; that they are made by himself; and I request each and all of you to bear witness, that I now renounce all connection with the deceiver; that if he should be hereafter taken up and punished, I may be justified in having quitted him, and proclaimed his impositions."

Having concluded his discourse, some of the better kind of people who were near him, would have pushed him out of the church, in order to prevent a scandal being thrown upon the cloth; but my master prevented them, and desired they would give



his accuser the hearing. As he continued his silence, the preacher added, if he has any thing else to say, let him proceed. The sergeant replied, that he could produce many more charges, but he had brought enough for the present. Upon which the delegate, placing himself on his knees before the pulpit, and raising his hands and eyes to heaven, said, "Holy St. Francis, who seest all that is done on earth, and to whom nothing is impossible, I beseech thee to make use of the power given thee to clear up my innocence; for thou knowest how unjustly I am accused. I pardon the poor wretch the injury he would do me, and beg thy forgiveness of him; but as he may hurt the holy cause in which I am engaged, I earnestly implore thee to employ some miracle to undeceive those here present, who  
may

may have been biaſſed by his declaration to reject theſe bulls; and if I am the deceiver, I beſeech thee to cauſe this pulpit to ſink ten fathom deep into the earth, and that I may not ariſe from it. If he is the impoſtor, and inſtigated by the devil, raiſes this falſehood only to prevent theſe good people from profiting by the benefit offered to them, I beſeech thee to puniſh him in ſuch a manner that his wickedneſs be known to all preſent."

My pious maſter had ſcarcely finiſhed theſe words, e'er the knaviſh officer fell on the ground, and that with ſuch violence that I thought he muſt have cracked his ſkull. He then began to kick and plunge, making the moſt horrid contortions, and writhing his body as if in all the agonies of convulſions.

The whole congregation were so astonished, that at first they seemed to be struck dumb; but this silence soon gave way to a hundred different noises, so that they could hardly hear each other speak; some pitied his sufferings, and prayed for mercy on him; others less compassionate, said he was properly served, and deserved an exemplary punishment for the scandal he had uttered.

Some of the most adventurous part of the audience took hold of him; one seized his arms, another his legs; and never did vicious mule give such malicious kicks as this fly knave. There were above twelve men who attempted in vain to hold him; and when he got a leg or arm loose, woe to them that were within reach of it.

During



During this time my master continued on his knees, seemingly so entranced by his devotions, that even the noise which was made could not disengage him from his contemplations.

Some good people went up to him, and by dint of pulling him and screaming in his ears, at length drew his attention. They besought him to have pity on the poor wretch who was dying; to forgive him, since his punishment was so great; and that if by any means it were in his power to relieve him from his sufferings, he would for the love of mercy do it.

The pious pastor, as if awakened from a dream, looked at them, then at the serjeant and furrounding croud, and in an humble tone proceeded to say, that it was useless their application to

H 6

him,

him, for he had no power to withdraw the punishment; but he would most willingly join them in prayer, that the sufferings might be alleviated. He then descended from the pulpit, and kneeling by the side of the serjeant, desired the congregation to follow his example, which they did; he then uttered the following prayer. "Holy St. Francis, we humbly beseech thee to have pity on this miserable offender; and if thou hast for the punishment of his sins permitted the devil to possess him, banish the evil spirit, and restore the poor wretch to his senses and health." After this prayer (in which all joined) my master recited some others, in a manner that drew tears from all the devots; he then placed the bulls on the head of the serjeant, who became quiet immediately, and recovered his senses perfectly

perfectly in a short time. When this was accomplished, he threw himself at the feet of the delegate, and begged his pardon for the calumny he had uttered ; he said it was the devil who inspired him, in order to prevent the distribution of the bulls, which he wished the good people present not to have the benefit of.

My master, upon this confession, forgave him, and again took him into favour. This affair made so much noise, and the bulls got into such credit, that there was not a soul scarce in the place who did not apply for them. Husbands and their wives, men and women, servant men and servant maids ; in short, there were but few of the more enlightened people who penetrated the mystery.

The



The news of this pretended miracle was circulated to all the neighbouring villages, so that when we arrived there we had no occasion to preach sermons, or even go to church; the people came in as great crouds as if they had been pears that were disposed of *gratis*.

I own that I was deceived as well as others at first; but the jokes that I heard between my master and his friend on the subject, after, let me into the secret, and I was then apprised of the consummate wickedness of this distributor of bulls. From that time I conceived such a horror for him, that I resolved to quit him, which I did very soon after.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

*Lazarillo enters into the Service of a Painter; becomes Clerk to an Officer of Justice; and afterwards Cryer.*

**I** THEN placed myself with a great painter, where my business was to grind colours; but I was soon tired of this; and as I was now grown tall, I thought I ought to look out for some occupation more useful and suitable to my age. One day that I went to church, I was accosted by a chaplain; he asked me if I wanted a service, for he liked my looks, and would employ me, if I was willing? I consented, and entered his service; he gave into my care an ass, four barrels, and a whip, with which I was to sell water in the town.

This

This was my first step towards comfort. We settled matters thus. I gave thirty maravedas every day to the chaplain, excepting Saturdays, when he allowed me the profit of my labours; and besides this, I was permitted to keep all I gained over and above the thirty maravedas. I contrived so well with this, that at the end of four years I was worth enough to purchase myself, at the pawn-brokers, an old suit of clothes that were clean and neat, and an ancient sword, of the fashion of Roland's days. Finding myself so spruce, I resigned to my master the ass and all the paraphernalia, giving him to understand that I wished to better my fortune, and took my leave.

I then got into the service of an officer of justice, who employed me  
as



as his recorder ; but I did not like this situation. I was not endowed by nature with the qualities required in it : for one night that we were in pursuit of some rioters, we were set upon by a parcel of rogues, who had taken shelter in a place through which we passed ; they knew us, and began to employ sticks and stones without any mercy. My master was fool enough to make up to them ; for my part, I took to my heels, and convinced them I knew how to use them. I soon bid adieu to the officer, and proceeded to seek some employment which would permit me to live in peace, and lay something by to support me in my old age. Thank heaven I have got one that is both profitable and pleasant.

Some people of quality who interested

terested themselves for me, procured me a royal post. I was some time in getting it to be sure, and was obliged to run about a great deal ; but it was worth while ; for I knew that my fortune could only be made by such a situation. At this time, therefore, my good readers, I perform the office of cryer, at your service. My employment consists in, giving notice throughout the town, where the best wines are to be sold ; enquiring after all lost things ; I give notice of sales ; accompany the condemned to the place of execution, acquainting people by the way with their good qualities. In a word, I am a public cryer. This business suits me so well, and I succeed so well in it, that I get all the employment ; nobody thinks of applying but to Lazarillo de Tormes ; if they do, they have little hope of succeeding.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER XIX.

*Lazarillo marries the Servant of a Corregidor.  
Proves a complaisant Husband.*

I HAVE the honor to be employed by the corregidor, who is an old bachelor. Finding me a good manager, and of an easy disposition, he married me to a favourite servant; recommending me to treat her well, as her faithful services had intitled her to his regard; and as I behaved, so should I be rewarded by his protection and favour. I thought I could not do better than accept his proposal. I therefore married, and do not repent.

My wife is an excellent manager, and the noble corregidor gives me his assistance



assistance and protection. I receive from him every year to the value of a load of corn. He often sends us pieces of beef, loaves, and gives me besides, all his old clothes. He has hired us a small house close to his own, and we dine with him almost every Sunday and holiday.

But happiness seldom comes unmixed; our peace was for sometime disturbed by evil tongues, which insinuate very scandalous things, because my wife, who is very handsome, goes to dress our patron's dinner sometimes, and sets his room to rights. Heaven help the scoffers! and may they know the wrong they are guilty of towards honest people. For my part, I am very well satisfied, say what they will; and my wife is too prudent to attend to their chatter.

I con-

I confess, that at first, these things made me rather uneasy ; but the corregidor was so kind to me, he made me so many presents, and promised me such future advantages, it was impossible he could think of doing me any injury ; besides, to satisfy me, he spoke very plainly on the subject before my wife.

“ Lazarillo, my friend (said this kind patron to me one day) those who listen to evil tongues, are sure never to prosper. I say this to you, because I hear there are impertinent people who affect to be scandalized, that your wife continues to do the little offices she did for me before she married ; perhaps they may be officious enough to put foolish thoughts into your head ; but I hope you have too much sense to mind them. Be assured,

assured, our conduct is strictly honorable. Besides, after all, will these evil speakers provide for you?"

I am excessively obliged to you, sir, (replied I) for all your goodness to me, and will follow your advice; to be sure there are certain persons who have been talking to me on this subject; some indeed went so far as to say that my wife there had three children by you before our marriage.

These words were hardly out of my mouth, before my wife began to make such loud protestations of her innocence, accompanied by such horrible oaths, that I expected the house to fall about our ears, so frightened was I. She then fell a crying most bitterly, uttering a thousand curses  
on



on those who had so falsely and malevolently accused her.

When I saw the effect my words had on my poor wife, I wished I had died rather than uttered them. But the corregidor and myself took so much pains to comfort her, that at length she was pacified. I assured her, on my honor, that I never would speak on the subject again; that to convince her of my confidence, she had my full permission to go to the corregidor's house at any hour of the day or night; so far from being vexed at their being such good friends, nothing could give me greater pleasure. For I was convinced there was not a more virtuous woman in Toledo.

After this we became better friends than ever; and whenever any body attempts

attempts now to speak to me on the subject, I interrupt them very quickly, and desire them sharply to mind their own business; that I am resolved not to attend to any thing to make me uneasy. And above all things, I will not allow any body to make a difference between me and my wife, whom I love better than myself, and to whom I owe all the comfort of my life.

After having made this declaration to all who interfered in my affairs, they ceased to plague me; and I found I had adopted the means thereby of living in peace at home.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER XXI.

*Lazarillo becomes acquainted with some of the Germans in the suite of the Emperor Charles the Fifth.*

AT this time the emperor Charles the Fifth arrived at Toledo, with his whole court. I shall not attempt to describe the entertainments that were given on the occasion; they have no relation to my adventures, and may be met with elsewhere. The reason of my mentioning the subject, is, that during his stay I made a numerous acquaintance. As I never went out without a good bottle of wine, and some fruit, as symbols of my profession, I got several friends among the gentlemen of his train; and as I have the facul-



ty of making myself beloved, I have besides these, so many other friends, I verily believe if I was even to commit a murder, or to do something worse, I should by their means get out of the scrape.

While those Germans remained here, I went every day to call on them, and conducted them to the house where the best wine was to be had; we marked our approbation of it so strongly, that those who could take themselves there, required four people to take them back; and the best of the business was, that Lazarrillo did not pay a farthing. They threatened to beat me, two or three times, for only offering to put my hand in my pocket. I did not like to be beat. These Germans are charming people; I was so delighted with  
the

the society of my new friends, that I should have liked to pass the rest of my days with them. Besides paying my reckoning, they gave me continually, pieces of ham, mutton, and dried meats nicely seasoned with spice, and wine; so that my family was provided for at home, without any expence to me.

I enjoyed my good fare, the more from remembering my former wants, and began to be perfectly at my ease; but alas! it was too soon interrupted. *Happiness* (as the proverb says,) *is of short duration*. The court left Toledo; my dear German friends would have persuaded me to accompany them, promising to provide for me; but I recollected another proverb, which says, *a bird in the hand, is worth two in the bush*. I thanked them a thousand

times for all their kindness, and we took leave with a million of embraces.

If I had not been married, indeed it would have been another affair ; I would then have passed the remainder of my days among them, for it must be owned they led a very pleasant life.

I loved these Germans because they had no pride, and their hearts were ever on their lips ; they would go as freely into the meanest public house as they would into the most magnificent palace, and would pay their respects to the smallest cork, provided the wine was good. They are a nation of people who are frank and free, and have plenty of money ; and I ask no greater blessing of  
provi-



providence, than to meet with some of them whenever I happen to be thirsty.

But the affection I have for my wife and child, would not permit me to follow these good people. I try to console myself for their loss; yet I know not how it is, though I have many friends, and am welcome wherever I go, I seem as lonely since the departure of my Germans, as if I were in a desert.

Indeed, I know not what would become of me, but for my little Theresa; I say *mine*, because I am now thoroughly cured of the suspicions, which once came into my head, from a likeness that struck me in her countenance; for my wife, who would not tell a lie for the universe, assured me  
it

it was mine, in a manner that would have convinced the most unbelieving. In fact, my mind is now perfectly at ease on this head ; I am determined to pass the rest of my days in quiet, and save a fortune for my girl.

It is probable, my good readers, that my adventures and my life will finish together in this place, but as many strange things come to pass in this world, if any thing should happen to me in future, worth relating, I shall not wait till you ask me to disclose it, that is provided I find you are pleased with what I have already written.

END OF VOL. I.

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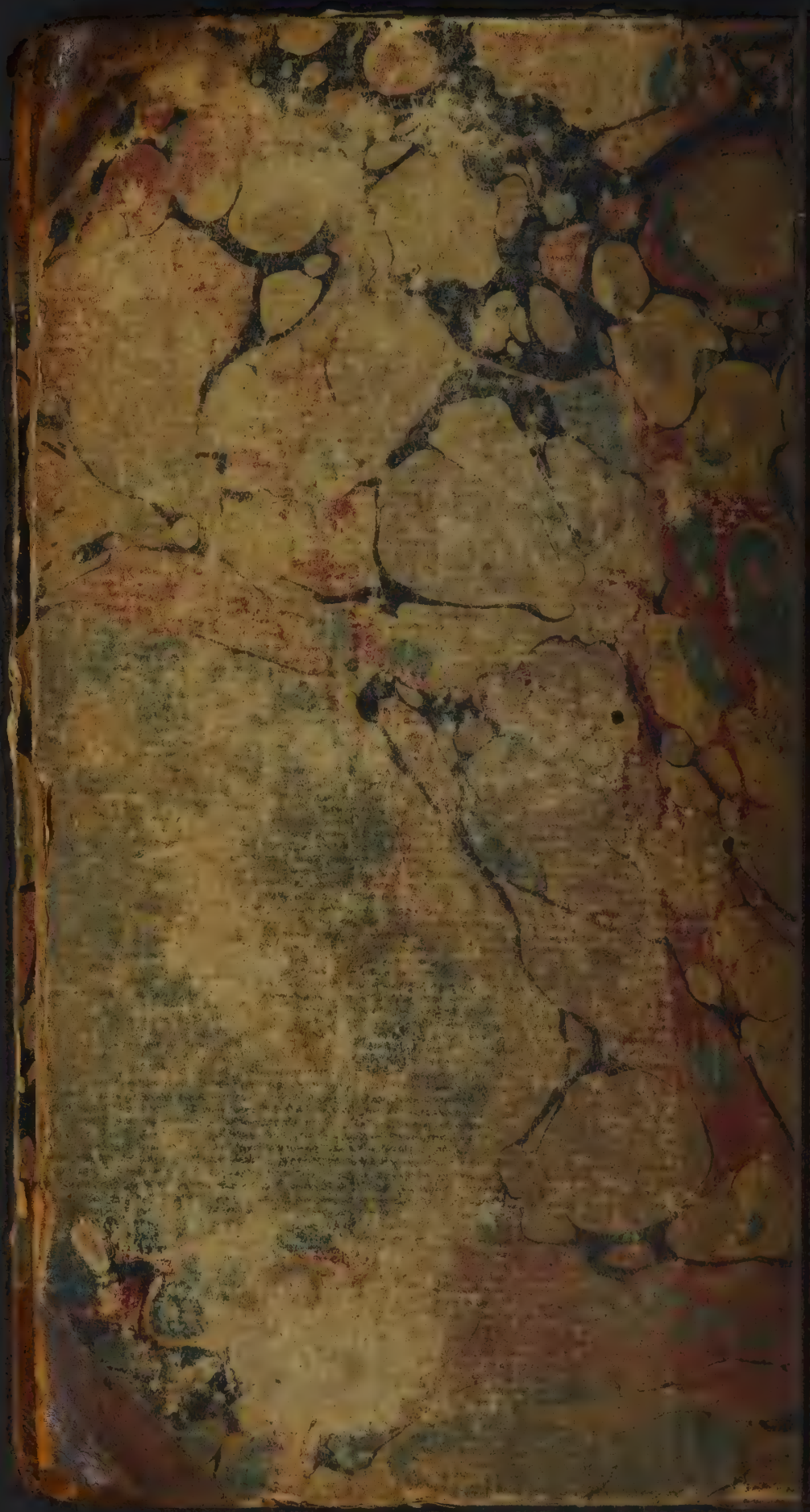
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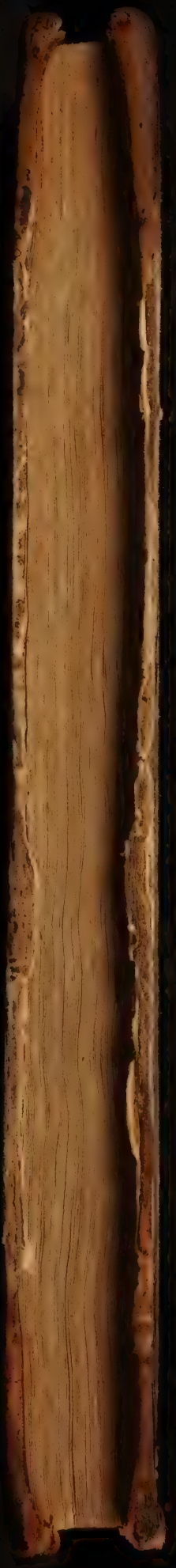




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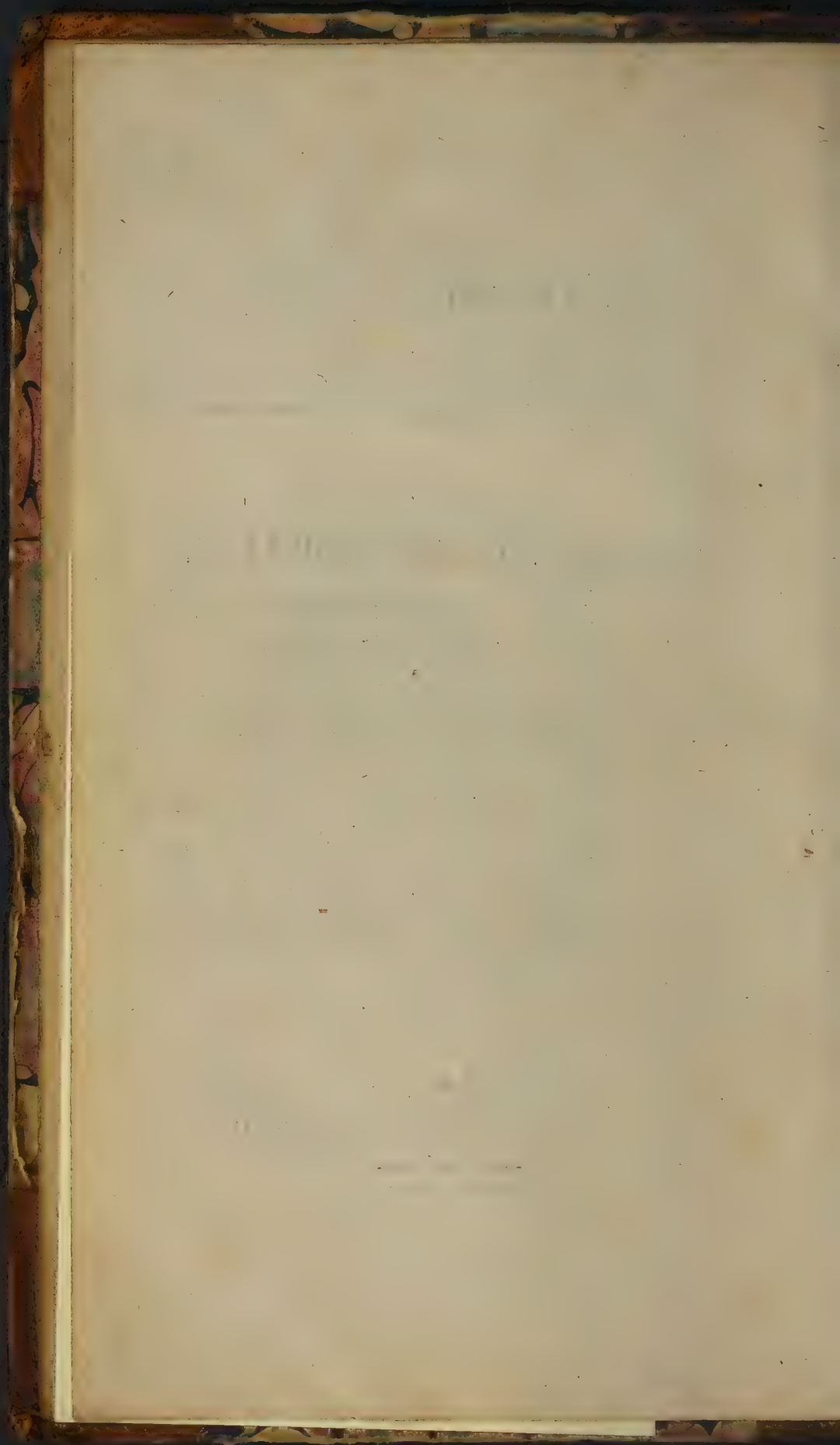
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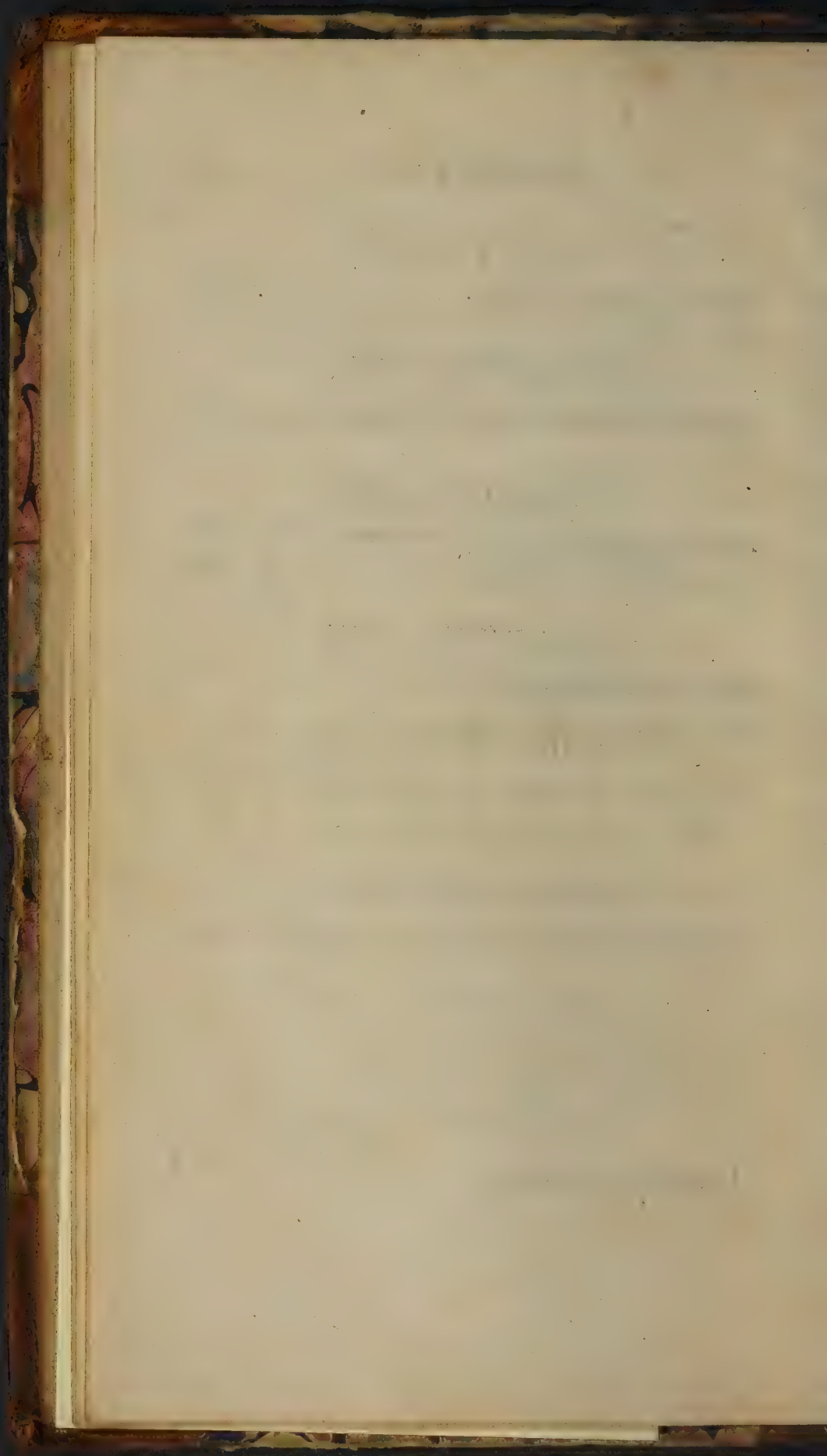
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THE LIFE  
OF  
LAZARILLO DE TORMES.

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CHAPTER I.

*Lazarillo a bad Manager; the Death of the Corregidor; Lazarillo's Misery in consequence.*

I PROMISED my readers, if any thing worth relating recurred to me, I would again employ my pen; I now perform that promise, convinced they will find the latter part of my adventures even more surprising than the former.

VOL. II.

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The

The life I had led with my German companions was so pleasant, that I was ever regretting it; and at length as a consolation, resorted to the houses where we had passed so many agreeable hours; there I found some new associates, to whom I taught the German fashion; and we did so much honor to our instructors, that we no longer quitted the alehouse, either night or day. But the misfortune was, that I was now under the necessity of paying my own expences, and generally those of my companions; so that in a few months I had spent all my former savings.

I attended so little during this period to my employment of cryer, that what I earned, would not have provided salt for my porridge; and  
when



when I wanted money, my wife was obliged to give it me, or I made the house too hot to hold her. But she did not very quietly submit to this; we had very great quarrels, and the corregidor was always against me; sometimes he would expostulate with me in gentle terms, and at others make use of his authority; by one or other of these means, he usually patched up a peace between us. When I was in a condition to reason, I perceived that he was in the right; I then constrained myself for a few days, wherein I stayed at home, and attended to my affairs; but this resolution was of short duration; I was become so habituated to the alehouse, that I would rather have suffered any misfortune than stay away.

The corregidor, however, continued

nued his lectures, and my wife her remonstrances, in which they were abetted by my conscience; which told me they were certainly right, and I wrong. All at once therefore, I resolved seriously on a reform. I continued at home three or four weeks, but so sorely against the grain, that my dissatisfaction was I believe pretty evident. My poor wife who was undoubtedly very fond of me, could not bare to see me suffer so much from constraining myself. I don't how, but it seemed as if we were both in each others way. One day that we were sitting by the fire side, she told me that she plainly perceived the kind of life I led was very irksome to me; and therefore advised me to follow my inclinations, and leave the rest to providence. I thought her advice excellent, and her confidence was so well founded,

founder, that I never was without money in my pocket; the corregidor changed his note too, for so far from remonstrating with me on the occasion, he was the first to advise me to yield the management of affairs to my wife, and not to trouble myself about my family; I did not give myself the trouble to enquire into their reasons, and without knowing whence the money came, led the pleasantest life in the world.

About this time my wife lay in of a daughter, which the corregidor honoured by giving his name to; and indeed was as fond of as if it had been his own. He told me continually that if she lived to grow up, he would educate her, and leave her all her fortune. I could not but admire the goodness of this man towards an

B 3. infant,



infant, in whom he had no interest; satisfied with these assurances I continued to live, according to my former plan; I was the happiest fellow in the world; having no thought for the present or future; I depended on the corregidor for all.

My life continued to pass away in this pleasant manner for some time, when it was all at once interrupted by the illness of our good friend; he was seized with such a violent fever, that in three days he was reduced to the last extremities.

The corregidor's relations, who had claims to his inheritance, were soon informed of his situation; they all flocked to him; and though it was natural to suppose their interests would have caused divisions among them,

them, they agreed but too well respecting me.

Their first care was to forbid my wife or me from entering the house; and though the good man enquired very frequently for us, they persuaded him so fully that he ought to give up all thoughts of this world, that he took himself quietly into the other, without our having even the consolation to take leave of him, or his leaving us any little token of his regard.

*Misfortunes never come alone.* The corregidor being a man of authority, people did not dare to importune him about trifles; for this reason the rent of our house had not been paid for two years. The landlord would not understand that it was the corregidor who hired the house, because his heirs

would by no means acknowledge it, so that we were turned into the street, our goods being seized for the debt.

Of so many friends that I could have boasted, in a week I had not one; and had it not been for a charitable lady who took my wife to suckle her child, and also supported my poor girl, I should have been reduced to play the part of the *gentleman ruined by the wars*. In fact, the death of the corregidor was more fatal to me, than fire, sword, famine, or any other visitation.

I thought to have found a resource still in my office of cryer; but alas! I was disappointed; deprived of the means of entertaining my customers at the alehouse, they deserted me, and I did not gain sufficient to pay the  
hire



hire of my trumpet. It was then that I began to dislike my German friends, as much as I had liked them before ; and I found but too late, that having fared too well in their company, would be the occasion of my faring very ill the rest of my life.

## CHAPTER II.

*Lazarillo determines on making a Voyage to the Indies. He meets his old Master, the Squire, who relates his Adventures.*

WHAT was to be done in this extremity? I found I could form no plan more favourable than going to seek my fortune in the new world, since there was no resource for me in the old, This was become a beaten road; it having long been the fashion for the gentlemen of Spain, when they were a little out at the elbows, to re-establish their fortunes, by a voyage to the Indies, it was no disparagement to me, therefore, to follow the example of so many honourable gentlemen.

In

In consequence of this resolution I sold my office of cryer, to equip myself, and pay the expence of the voyage. I then took leave of my poor family, kissing a thousand times my little Teresa; and one fine morning set out from Toledo; a stick in my hand, and a bag containing my slender wardrobe at my back.

I could not bear fatigue so well as formerly, therefore made short journeys, and was as frugal in my expences as possible. One morning that I had set out rather earlier than usual, I saw a man before me on the road, who walked very leisurely; he was wrapped up in a large cloak, and had on a long sword, the end of which appeared through a hole that had been made for that purpose in the cloak. As it was not an hour

B 6

that



that people walked merely for amusement, I was surprised to see a person thus equipped on the high road, and I did not know what to think of him. Having some apprehensions that he might be one of those kind gentlemen who relieve passengers from their baggage, and wishing to preserve mine, I addressed him, in approaching with a "God preserve you, sir." I pardon you, replied he, (without taking the cloak from his face) because according to my present appearance, you are excusable in not knowing what is due to me. "I was surprised at this answer, which I conceived at first to be the foundation of a German quarrel, and willing to preclude all pretence for it, assured him I had no intention to offend him, on the contrary—he interrupted me by saying very sharply, that may be; but  
how

how came it into your head, then, to salute people in such a strange manner. The devil take me if I don't think that *God preserve you* was introduced into the world, to drive me out of it.

At these words I began to examine him more attentively; and as he had lowered his cloak, I perceived I was speaking to my old master, the squire. I was greatly rejoiced from various considerations, and approaching him, said, "is it possible, my noble master, a few years should have made such a change, that you no longer remember Lazarillo de Tormes? He looked earnestly at me, then held out his hand, and said, why really, Lazarillo, you are so much grown, and so much improved since we parted, that it would have been a difficult matter to recognize you.  
After

After several congratulations, and expressions of mutual regard, he began to question me where I was going. I told him. He then said, I am going to the same place; we will travel together; and I beg of you to relate to me by the way, all that has happened to you since the evening I was obliged to quit Toledo for reasons you may guess."

I gave him an exact account of all that had befallen me; which took up such a length of time, we arrived at the place of destination, as I concluded. I went into an inn and requested him to follow me. I then enquired for refreshment, which was soon brought; and as we were such old acquaintance, *the squire* made no ceremony with me, or even pretended to put his hand into his purse.

After



After our repast my quondam master communicated to me, what had happened to him during our separation; he told me that when he had quitted the house, under pretence of changing the double pistole, not doubting that when money was the question, people would keep their appointment, and considering also the little means of subsisting he had found at Toledo, he resolved to return to his own country, to sell his property, and endeavour by some means to improve it.

“ I was surprized, added he, when I arrived, to find my dove house rebuilt, and several pair of oxen ploughing the fields, which I had left untilled when I quitted the place. I went up to a labourer who was following the plough, and enquired to whom

whom he belonged; I learnt from him, that soon after I left the village, for the reasons I gave you, the very person who was the occasion of my departure, took possession of my land without any opposition, and had managed it in the manner I was witness of.

“ Having received this information I went to one of my old neighbours, and caused my return to be published. My officious representative was very much surpris'd; but he could not deny; my identity too short a time having pass'd since my going, to admit of it. He therefore made a proposal to me, to board me so long as I should find it agreeable, and when it ceased to be so, to make me a considerable present, if, on my, part I  
consented

consented to relinquish all claim to the property."

" Before I agreed to this proposal, I made the following conditions: That I was to have at least the second place at his table; that when we met he should address me with, "*your servant,*" and no more of his, *God preserve you;*" I would sooner have relinquished all my property, than have yielded this point. This being agreed to, all was settled amicably, and I continued two years in my native place, bearing a sword, and receiving the homage of the peasants.

But at length I grew tired of this idle life, and I perceived too, that the people of the house began to grow more familiar with me; I therefore informed my host, that I should like to go  
to



to the army, and requested he would, according to our agreement, pay me a sum of money. He was very well pleased with the proposal, and to assist me, gave me a horse, and sufficient money to equip me for the expedition; in consideration whereof I made a renunciation in form of all my property to him, and took a final leave of my native place.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER III.

*The Squire continues the Recital of his Adventures.*

*He agrees to take a Voyage to the Indies with Lazarillo.*

“**B**UT I had no intention, (continued the squire) of joining the army ; therefore, at a quarter of a league’s distance from the village, I quitted the road to Catalonia, and took that of Madrid, where I hoped to make a fortune by less hazardous means. For, to own the truth, though I have worn a sword all my life, I never was fond of the profession of arms. And as I had always a great deal of ambition, and an elevated turn of mind, I willingly adopted the sentiments of the great men of our nation,

tion, who think every employment that bears a relation to war, beneath them; and that they are degraded by it."

" When I arrived at Madrid, I sold my horse, and hired a handsome apartment. This done, I set about reconnoitering the town. One evening that it was dark, I was returning home through a narrow street, when I saw a coach stop. I perceived a lady in it, who was very well dressed, and whom I therefore saluted as I passed. I had not gone a hundred yards before a lacquey overtook me, and told me his lady, who was in that carriage just by, wished to speak to me. I returned with him; and when I arrived, she addressed me thus: " You will undoubtedly be surpris'd, sir, at my taking this liberty; but I perceived



ceived you was a stranger; and I thought too that I could read in your countenance you were not a man to refuse a genteel employment, if it were offered to you."

" I thanked her for her kindness, and acknowledged it was the very thing I was come to Madrid in search of. I was a cadet, not very rich, and" — here she interrupted me, " Enough, signior, I have long been in search of a well-bred genteel man like yourself. Donna las Garfios, in whose service I have the honor to be, has been a long time soliciting me to look out for a gentleman-usher for her. She is a woman of the highest rank, therefore it will be a very advantageous establishment for you; a considerable salary; a coach and lacquey for yourself; and your fortune made for life."

" I would

“ I would have reiterated my acknowledgements, but she would not listen to me.” “ Hold, hold, said she; stay ’till you see what I do for you. Get into the carriage, and we will converse further on this subject. “ Where do you lodge ?” I told her; and she said, “ how lucky ! tis, the very part of the town I was going to; I will take you there.”

“ I blessed my stars a thousand times in my own mind for the good fortune that had befallen me, when I so little expected it. As we went along, she asked me an hundred questions, and you will judge, I could not conceal any thing from my generous benefactress. I related all my adventures to her, without any reserve.

“ When we arrived at my lodgings,  
she

she said she should like to see what sort of apartments I had. We went up stairs, and I wished to get some light, but she would not permit me, saying, that it might be prejudicial to her to be seen; and it was still light enough for her to distinguish what she wanted. From the anti-chamber she went to the bed-chamber, desiring her footman might stay at the door, to prevent any body from coming in. She set herself on my bed, and desired me to sit by her. She then entered into a long detail of my future employment; described Donna las Garfios, and all her household; then proceeded to give me instructions respecting my future conduct, giving the characters of each domestic separately. After which, she promised to send the carriage to fetch me next day, to present me to my future mistress;



mistress; and after a thousand protestations of mutual friendship, we parted."

When I had handed her to her coach, with a satisfaction you will easily conceive, I returned to my apartment with a light. But what was my astonishment on entering it, to find, that while this generous friend had been amusing me with such fair speeches and fine promises, her lacquey had contrived to convey away my clothes, portmanteau, and almost all my money. I ran down into the street like a madman, and followed the coach without being able to come up with it; unfortunately, at the meeting of several streets, it intermingled with four or five others, so that I could no longer distinguish it from the others. I was therefore obliged  
to

to return home, cursing my destiny, Donna las Garfios, and above all, my own folly."

" You must allow, my dear Lazarillo, this was a sad presage of my future fortune. I had only ten pistoles left, half of which at least it would take to repair the depredations committed on my wardrobe, and the rest would not serve to subsist me long without some employment. In short, I was soon reduced to the utmost misery; and finding Madrid no more favourable to me than Toledo, I resolved to seek my fortune elsewhere."

Here the squire ended his narrative, and proved, by opening his cloak, that his situation was what he represented it; for his clothes were all rags; his hat and stockings so much worn, that

altogether were not worth half a real. I felt so much compassion for my old master, that I offered to share my supper and bed with him, which he readily accepted, and I made use of every effort in my power to console him; telling him, that since we were both reduced to seek our fortune, he had better go to the Indies with me; and that it was fortunate, as we had so far to go, we had the comfort of a friend's society. We then went to supper, and drank to our success in the new world, swearing eternal friendship. After this we retired to bed, continuing still to converse on our future plans. We agreed that he should retain his name of Don Alonzo Fanegado, and that I should take that of my father, Lazaro Gonzales, adding a Don to it; for I resolved to be a gentleman as well as my companion,

since



since nothing is so easy and convenient, as to ennoble ourselves in a foreign country. In fine, after a long conversation on this subject, we went to rest.

Next morning, when I awoke, I found the squire had arisen before me; and going to put on my clothes, I was very much surprised to find they had disappeared. This discovery was soon followed by another, no less than that the squire had taken himself off at break of day; and having heard, I suppose, that *exchange is no robbery*, had taken away my clothes, and every thing, leaving me his old rags in their place.

I was so grieved at this discovery, that I thought I should have died on the spot; and I have often regretted

since, I did not, as I should then have escaped the miseries I have suffered subsequently. The regret, however, at this moment, is no more. When I recovered my first surprise, I began to cry out, and made such a noise, that I drew all the people of the house to my room. They found me like a man who is swimming; naked, with my arms extended, seeking something to put on. They laughed till their sides shook to see me in this situation, while I swore like a trooper at the braggard and thief, for entertaining me with his rhodomontade stuff about his birth and grandeur.

The only remedy left me, was to try if the villainous squire's clothes would do for me, till it should please providence to send me some others. But I found them quite a labyrinth,  
without

without beginning or end. There was no difference between the breeches and the doublet. I put my legs into the sleeves, and the breeches on my shoulders; and for the hose, they resembled the sleeves of a jacobine, or an archbishop: the shoes would have served for sandals, only that they had soles to them. I put the hat on wrong side before, because the back was not so greasy. I shall say nothing of the *gentry who accompanied me*.



## C H A P. IV.

*Lazarillo embarks for Carthagenæ. Is shipwrecked in his Return from India. Hears the Confession of a Corporal; and enjoins him various Penances. Is saved by a Plank.*

FINDING myself thus deserted by all the world, and equipped in such a grotesque manner, I betook myself towards Carthagenæ to embark for the Indies. As I went along, the people were all up in arms to see such a ridiculous figure, and each made some observation in derision of me. One said, look at that hat, the feather, methinks, becomes him as *a sow becomes a side-saddle*. Another observed, that my doublet was somewhat short; aye, replied another, but *it will*  
be

*be long enough before he gets another.*

A mule driver told me my cloak was like a pigstye, and might be truly called so when I was in it. A basket woman desired me to kill some of the fat animals that ran about me, and sell them for my family, whom, she feared, wanted food mightily. A rascally valet told me, my sandals were truly apostolic. "Yes, interrupted an officer, they are adapted to his profession; he is going to convert the Moors, and recommend poverty and abstinence by his example." In short, they ridiculed me so unmercifully, I was obliged to take to my heels, and by this means escaped. I soon arrived at Carthagená, where I took my passage; the vessel set sail shortly after; and being favoured by a fair wind, we soon got into port.

I shall not relate what happened to me in India, because nothing material or entertaining occurred; but proceed to what befel me on my return. One day that we were on the point of discovering the Spanish coast, I went on deck, eager to be among the first who were blessed with a view of their native land, which was, in spite of its ill treatment, very dear to me. While I watched for this precious sight, I gave myself up to the pleasing idea of seeing my wife and child, after three years fatigue and danger; and making them partakers of my good fortune. I had brought merchandize with me to the amount of five hundred crowns, with which I intended to set up a little shop at Cadiz, as that was the place where the greatest commerce was carried on; and I hoped to provide honestly and  
comfort-



comfortably for my family; but *I reckoned without my host*; fortune was not yet tired of persecuting me.

All at once a violent tempest arose, which increased every minute to such a horrible degree, that the pilot and sailors were no longer masters of their vessel. The fleet separated, and for two days and nights we were between life and death. The waves mounted up so high, they met the clouds. The pilot lost all hopes, and the crew therefore gave themselves up to despair; nothing was to be heard but sighs, groans, and lamentations.

Never was there a scene of greater confusion; amidst the universal noise, the commands of the officers were not heard; one ran one way and one ano-

C 5 ther;

ther ; all were desirous of confessing their sins to each other ; and some address'd for absolution even greater scoundrels than themselves.

The proverb says, *it is good fishing in troubled waters*. Seeing therefore that all were employed, I said to myself, let those die that will, provided I live, its no matter of mine. I therefore went down into the hold, where I found a great quantity of provisions, nice pyes, and other delicacies with some delicious wines. I began then to eat, resolving to lay in a stock to last me till the day of judgment. While I was thus engaged, a foldier came to me, to desire I would receive his confession ; he was astonish'd to see me eat so heartily ; and asked me how I could  
have

have so good an appetite, when death was before my eyes. I told him I took care to lay in a good foundation, for fear the great quantity of sea-water I drank in drowning, should give me the stomach-ach. Though on the point of death himself, he could not help laughing at my simplicity.

There were several others who wanted to confess themselves to me, but I was too well engaged to hear them. The captain and people of rank on board, took refuge with two confessors in the boat. I was not of the party, for as I did not make any great figure, I was not thought of consequence enough to be saved. When I was tired of eating, I went to a cask of wine, and drank as much as my stomach would hold. Having

C 6                      then



then nothing else to do, I attended to the request of my companions, and received their confessions. Among the rest, I remember a corporal, who earnestly desired I would hear him acknowledge a heinous sin he had been guilty of; as I consented, he proceeded to inform me, that he had neglected to accomplish a penitence which had been enjoined him, of going a pilgrimage to our lady of Loretto, when he could very easily have performed it. And afterwards, when he would have done it, it was not in his power. I told him that by virtue of the authority I possessed, I changed his penitence; instead of going to our lady of Loretto, he should go to St. James. Alas! said he, how happy should I be to have it in my power to perform that; but you see the situation we are in; the water is almost up to our mouths.

mouths. Then, returned I, I command you to drink up the sea; but this was equally impossible, because there were others who drank as much as himself.

Observing now that we were at the last gasp, for the water came in at every part of the vessel, I ran up on deck as quick as possible, and half undressing myself, I seized hold of a plank just as the ship was going to split against a rock. Though I knew nothing of swimming, I was borne along to the shore by this means, where I was found by some fishermen, without motion, and covered over with sea weed and shells.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER V.

*Some Fishermen find Lazarillo in their Nets. They take him for a Sea Monster, and oblige him to be one in spite of himself. They dress him as a Triton; and exhibit him in Public.*

THE shore on which the waves had thrown me, was very far from the rock on which our vessel split; and I was the only one of the crew who was saved.

The fishermen, who, as I said, took me in their nets, imagined at first they had made prize of a sea monster, my skin was so shriveled, my face disfigured, and I was besides covered all over with weeds, amongst which several shells had entangled. They  
got



got me out of the water by hooks, being afraid to break their nets with my weight. It was not till they had considered me very attentively, that they found their mistake. But the figure I made, gave them the hint of a scheme which they afterwards put into execution.

They made me bring up the water I had swallowed; and when I began to breathe, stript off the rest of my garments, and took me into their hut. Some hours after I recovered my senses, and hardly could be persuaded it was me. I found myself naked, and on a wretched mattrass. During this time the fishermen had held a council, and agreed upon the plan they meant to pursue. As I recovered and found my speech, I began to thank providence for my escape. I then, in  
bitter

bitter terms, lamented the misfortune, which had made me lose in one moment, what I had gained by three years fatigue. While I was thus uttering my complaints, one of the fishermen, the wickedest among them, came to me. "Well, said he, Mr. Triton, how do you find yourself? you are welcome to earth. Can you give us any news from the nereids and sea gods?" Me a Triton! replied I, you joke; dont you perceive that I am a man like yourself? "A man, indeed (returned he) very likely; I tell you, you are a Triton, or a sea monster, which ever you chuse." As he said this, several others approached, who agreed in the same story; they all swore I was an inhabitant of the sea. It was in vain I told them my name, whence I came, and that I had a wife and child; they would not listen to me. "None of  
your

your arguments, if you please, said the wretch who had first spoken to me; I tell you, you are a Triton, and a very hideous one too; so hold your tongue, if you would not be sliced and salted like one of our fish." I was going to reply, when he took out his knife as if to execute his threats. I was so frightened at this, that I resolved to be whatever they said; Triton, sea monster, or even herring, if they pleased.

I could not conceive, however, to what all this tended; but I was not long in the dark. I saw the fishermen bring in a large tub, three parts filled with water; they then obliged me to put on a covering they had made, composed of sea weeds, moss, and shells. I was then swaddled up by cords, so that only my head was left



left at liberty. They next put me on a long beard of sword grass, and a cap of moss. Thus equipped, I was put into the tub, which was shallow and oval. At one end, my head and shoulders appeared just above the water ; at the other, the tail of a fish was placed, so as to look like a part of me.

They had fastened a cord to my false beard, which passed through a hole made at the bottom of the tub, so that by pulling the end of it, they made me duck my head under water whenever they thought proper.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Lazarillo's Adventures in the Character of a Triton.*

WHEN the fishermen thought they were prepared for the exhibition, they gave notice by the cryer, that they had caught a Triton. In consequence, so many people crouded to see me, that though the price of admittance was only the quarter of a real, they made a very considerable sum of money before night. When the people came in, I would fain have made my case known to them; but one of the fishermen, to whom the part was given of relating the history of the Triton, was placed for that purpose by the tub, and held the cord that was fastened to my beard; when-  
ever

ever he perceived me going to open my mouth, he drew the string, and forced me to duck my head under water like a frog, so that I was obliged to hold my tongue, for fear of being stifled.

My persecutors charmed with their success, and tempted by the profit they had already acquired, resolved to carry me through all the towns and villages of Spain. For this end, they sent to ask permission of the superiors of the inquisition to exhibit a fish which had an human countenance ; and accompanied their request with a present of some remarkable fine fish;—it was therefore readily granted.

They conveyed me in a cart ; one of the fishermen was the driver ;  
another



another recited the history of the Triton to the auditors ; and a third was seated in the cart to pull the string in case I should be disposed to talk when we met any body. I was allowed to open my mouth only when we were alone. One day I profited of this permission, to ask them what demon put it into their heads that I was a sea monster, as they must be convinced in their own minds that I was a man ; for they perceived that I eat, drank, and spoke as a human being ? and further, that it was a cruel and wicked thing to place me in a situation that sooner or later would be my death. “ If you have nothing to say more to the purpose than that, replied my guard, I would advise you to hold your tongue ; we are better judges of what you are, than yourself. We are convinced you could not live

live an hour out of the water; and you ought to thank providence for throwing you into the hands of those who know how to manage a sea monster." Saying this, he began to pull the cord, to convince me he was in the right. This was an unanswerable argument; therefore I was obliged again to adopt my former resolution of consenting to be fish, or any thing that pleased these diabolical wretches. Sometimes to increase my misery, they would sing over their cups, "long live the charming fish, who fills our purses without our being obliged to work!"

At length they grew so bold from their success, that they took me to Madrid, where they hoped their gain would be very considerable, on account of the number of courtiers who resided there; for as those people  
lead

lead an idle life, they are fond of shows and amusements, and therefore are always in search of some novelty of the kind. My masters were, however, mistaken in their calculations, they did not receive much encouragement there, and met with a rebuff they little expected.

Among the spectators one day, there were some young scholars, a set not very easily tricked; one of these said pretty loud to the rest, "that a Triton! by my soul, just as much as I am; these are pretty rascals; if I was an officer of justice, I would send both fish and fishermen to the galleys, after having sent them round the town in the manner they deserve."

Alas! thought I, I would willingly compound for an hundred stripes and  
ten



ten years slavery in exchange of my present situation. I prayed heartily that they might complete the discovery, and was going to tell them they were in the right, when my centinel observing my mouth open, plunged my head under water. They gave a great shout when I plunged, to drown the voices of the scholars, which had the desired effect. But they were much alarmed by this discovery ; for they judged, and rightly too, that the same idea might occur to others ; they took French leave therefore of Madrid that same day, and directed their route towards the country, where people are easier imposed upon.

One day that we went to a village between Madrid and Toledo, a great concourse having assembled, my  
masters

masters were tired with the fatigue; therefore towards night they all fell fast asleep. Observing this, I tried to unloose the cord which fastened me; but it was so wet I could not succeed. I would have cried out, but I considered, that the first who heard me would soon close my lips with a seal of water. I began then to roll about in this puddle so violently, that at length I overturned the tub completely. The water ran about the room, and I found myself in some measure at liberty; I began therefore to cry out for help.

The fishermen seeing the trick I had played them, ran in great confusion and hurry to remedy the evil; their first step was to fill my mouth with herbs; and to confound my cries, cried themselves still louder, justice!

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justice!

justice! They then proceeded to fill the tub, which was done without observation, during the general hurry.

The host came in, attended by his whole house, armed; some with sticks, others with brushes and tongs. The neighbours flocked in also with a commissary and six serjeants. They enquired of the fishermen what was the cause of the outcry, who replied, that it was occasioned by some thieves who wanted to steal their sea monster. The host went to look if they escaped through any of the doors, others if they had got away on the ridges of the house top; mean time, I was replaced without any discovery.

It happened that the water which flowed out of the tub when it was overturned, had run through a hole  
in



in the floor to a room beneath, exactly where a bed stood, in which bed the girl of the house slept, and at this time had charitably given one of her gallants a share of it. They were so alarmed by the deluge which came pouring down on them, and the cries they heard, that not knowing what they were about, they both jumped out at the window. It was a moonlight night, therefore they were easily descried by those who went out of the house, who immediately began to cry out, "thieves! thieves! there's the thieves!"

The commissary and serjeant ran after, and soon overtook them; because, as they were without shoes or stockings, the stones pierced their feet, and prevented their making any speed. They were put into pri-

son immediately, without being heard; and the fishermen set out next morning for Toledo, without enquiring what would be the fate of the poor girl and her gallant.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Lazarillo is taken to Toledo, where he sees his Wife  
with a Lover.*

EVERY effort of man is vain ; his knowledge ignorance, his power weakness, without the assistance, and support of his creator. My endeavours to escape from my guards, only made them more vigilant to secure me, and they were so incensed at my attempt, and the fright I had put them into, that they beat me till I was almost dead, saying at the same time, so you want to get away, cursed fish ; not sensible to the favour we shew, in permitting you to live ; you are like an oak, which will not yield its fruit till it is well beat.

D 3

Thus



Thus abused, beaten, and almost famished, they brought me at length to Toledo; and as fate would have it, they hired a lower apartment in the very house where I formerly lived. I was astonished one day with the sight of my wife, and little daughter Terefa, who was grown as handsome as an angel. I was so affected, that two streams involuntarily flowed from my eyes. Though I could not suppress my sighs and tears, I endeavoured to conceal them, for fear of being deprived of the pleasure of seeing a child so dear to me. I wished to have had an hundred eyes to contemplate her; but alas! had I known my own happiness, I should have thought those who deprived me of speech, would have been kind in depriving me of sight also; for looking very attentively at my wife, I perceived;

ceived; how shall I bear to repeat it; I perceived by her shape that she had played me false. I leave to my readers to judge of the agony I suffered on this discovery; I cannot describe it.

A hope still presented itself to cheer me. I flattered myself my wife might be dropfical; but even this hope was soon wrested from me; and I was unhappily convinced that all which had been told me of the corregidor, was true. Two old women who were near me, began to converse on this subject; says one, ironically to the other, pointing to my wife, look at the chaste Penelope, how she mourns her absent lord! the other laughing, said, pray who is her present gallant? Who, returned the first, why Signior Lorenzo, who is so good, that to avoid the scandal of her becoming a mo-

ther, without a husband in his house, is going to marry her on Sunday next to Peter de Gabach. He will doubtless be as condescending as our old friend Lazarillo. At hearing this, I was struck as if by death; a sickness came over me, and my body, though immersed in cold water, burst into a violent perspiration; at length quite over-powered by my sensations, I fainted away and sunk to the bottom of the tub.

The fishermen seeing this, sent all the people out of the room, and proceeded to take me out of the water immediately; they found me without breath, and my pulse quite lost. Frightened at the idea of losing such a prize as I was now become, they employed every effort to bring me to my senses, but all in vain; and they  
lamented



lamented in the bitterest terms the loss they had sustained; but in the midst of their lamentations, recollecting the risk they ran of having their tricks discovered by my death, these horrid wretches resolved to throw me that very night into the river, and fly the country next morning. Providence however took pity on me and disappointed my enemies, as will be seen in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*Lazarillo taken towards the River to be thrown in by the Fishermen, is saved by the Patrole; and his Conductors punished.*

THESE villains agreeing that death was not to be joked with, as he seldom jokes himself, put me into a sack, which they placed across one of the mules belonging to their cart. Fortunately they placed me with my stomach on the saddle, by which means my mouth being downwards, the motion of the mule occasioned me to bring up the water I had swallowed, and I soon came to myself.

I immediately perceived that I was out of the water, but could not imagine

gine where I was, or what they were going to do with me. I soon learnt however that they meant to throw me into the river; for I heard one of them say, "it behoves us for our own sakes to take care that the place be deep enough, that he may not be discovered soon." Another said, he would fasten a large stone to my neck, that I might sink to the bottom. From this discourse I found their intention, and proved that "*the raven is never blacker than its wings.*" While I was considering my danger, I heard a noise of people who were passing very near, I therefore began to cry out, as loud as I could, help! help! murder! Happily for me, it was the patrol who were going their rounds; they heard my cries, and surrounded us in a moment. Perceiving the sack, they opened it, and



found poor Lazarrillo like a stock fish that had been soaked in fresh water. We were all conveyed directly to a place of safety; the fishermen, their mule, and myself. My enemies were greatly enraged at being taken, and I was equally rejoiced on my side to see myself free. The fishermen were put into a dungeon, and I was put into a bed.

The next morning we were examined. The fishermen confessed that they had carried me about as a show, but that they really believed me to be a fish, and had obtained the permission of the superiors of the inquisition. When it came to my turn, I told the whole truth; how the fishermen had found me; their binding me with cords; and finally, stopping my mouth that I might not complain. The court caused my wife then to be called

led to identify my person. On her entering, they asked her if I was Lazarillo de Tormes? She looked at me earnestly, and then said, it was true, I bore some resemblance to her late husband, but she thought it could not be him, because, though he certainly was a great beast, he was more likely to take the form of a fly than a fish, for he hated the sight of water as much as a mad dog; saying this, she dropt a low curtsy and retired.

My enemies' lawyer desired that I might be burnt, since it was evident that I was a monster. Well, thinks I, to be sure the devil has been at work here, and changes my form in the eyes of these people. The judges, however, desired him to hold his tongue, and at my request sent for my wife's new gallant, Don Lorenzo, who

who had been one of my friends during the life of the corregidor ; and who, as I heard from the gossips, the day before, had extended his *kindness* to my wife. When he arrived, seeing me so pale and shrivelled, he said he had no knowledge of me ; but I reminded him of some circumstances which were only known to ourselves, particularly one that he must remember, my finding him one night in my wife's chamber. Fearing that I should go further, and mention other things he did not chuse to have known, he acknowledged that I was in reality his good friend Lazarillo. To his testimony was added that of the captain of the vessel, who had escaped the wreck in the boat ; he recognized me ; and the place where the ship was lost being the spot where the fishermen



men acknowledged to have taken me up, the process was soon concluded.

My enemies were condemned to have two hundred lashes a piece, and all their property confiscated; one part to go to the king, another to the poor prisoners, and the third to Lazarillo. This property consisted of two thousand reals, two mules, and a cart; when all expences were paid, and the money divided, my share amounted to thirty ducats. Thus my enemies were stripped and punished, and I was rich and happy; never in my life had I been possessed of such a large sum. I went immediately to a friend's house to ask for some wine, for I could no longer bear the taste of the water in my mouth; when I had well rinsed it with half a dozen glasses, I began to think of equipping

equipping myself, which I did in a very handsome manner; and then walked about to shew myself, with the air of a nobleman, and faring like a king. I was now respected by my friends, feared by my enemies, and carested by every body.

All my past sufferings appeared only as a thorny road, leading to Paradise, where I fancied I was now arrived. Misfortunes humble man; prosperity intoxicates him. While my ducats lasted, I would not have yielded a point to a monarch; and this is the characteristic of the Spaniards; while they have a real in their purses, they fancy themselves princes. Ask any knave who he is, he will tell you directly he is well born, but his illfortune has degraded him; nor will he yield to any one, believing himself

himself as good as the best. All the Spaniards almost are the same in this respect; they would rather starve than work; if a few among them learn a trade, they hold it in such contempt, that they either neglect it, or perform it so ill, that there is not one good workman to be found in Spain.

I remember meeting with a botcher at Salamanca, who whenever he was sent for to any place to work, would always complain of his ill fortune, which had reduced him to take up that contemptible business, being descended from such and such houses, and born of parents distinguished for their noble actions, as much as their illustrious birth. I enquired one day of his neighbours, who were the parents of this self-named illustrious unfortunate. They told me that his  
father



father pressed grapes in summer, and killed hogs in winter; and that his mother cleaned tripe.

I had bought myself a suit of cut velvet, and a cape of striped silk, and wore a sword, the end of which unpaved the streets. I had not yet been to see my wife, because I was very angry with her; but I now thought I would, as the sight of me, so smart, would make her repent her conduct, and that she would receive me with open arms; but a black never changes his skin; I found her newly married, and brought to bed. When she saw me she set up a great scream, saying, take away that sea monster! that scald pig! drive him out this moment, or I will get up and tear his eyes out! I answered coldly, don't alarm yourself, my dear; I have

as

as little regard for you, as you can possibly have for me ; give me up my child, and I will never trouble you more. To this she would not consent ; telling me the child was none of mine ; and as a proof, she gave me the certificate of its baptism, which compared with that of our marriage, shewed that Teresa was born four months after I was married. I was very much surpris'd at this, having always believed the child to be mine. I said nothing, however ; but shaking the dust from my shoes, and dipping my hands in water, as marks of my innocence and eternal farewell, I turned my back on the house, as well pleased as if I had never had any knowledge of his possessors.

I then went to seek my friends to relate what had happened ; they were  
desirous

desirous of affording me consolation under my supposed affliction; but I assured them I did not stand in need of it. I wished to find some employment, but did not chuse to resume my office of cryer; as it did not suit very well with my sword and velvet. As I was walking and considering this subject one day, I met an old woman of my acquaintance, who made up to me; she told me my wife repented of her ill-treating me, which she believed was partly owing to her having heard I was possessed of some money, and partly, because she had found the difference between her new husband Gabach, and her old one, Lazarrillo; the former, said she, laughing, has giving her a new fashioned dress. I asked what she meant, and how this change had come to pass? She told me that Don Lorenzo, and my wife, were



were one day consulting, whether it would not be better to recall me, and banish Gabach : each gave their reasons for and against. As it happened, the *bridegroom* overheard their conference ; he took no notice, however, at the time, but soon after the affectionate spouse going to an olive garden where he worked, to take him his dinner, he stript and bound her to a tree ; he then gave her a hundred lashes ; and packing up her clothes, took himself off with the booty, leaving her thus tied, naked, to a tree. Luckily for her, Don Lozenzo sent there to see what was become of her ; they found her groaning and half dead. The old woman added, she was sure my wife would willingly now be reconciled to me, for she had heard her within a few days, lamenting me and saying, what an unhappy woman  
am

am I! why did I reject my poor Lazarillo! who was so good, so complaisant! he was never proud, suspicious or, scrupulous; but let me always do what I pleased.

This last stroke touched me to the very soul; a little matter would have persuaded me to take the old woman's advice, who recommended me to be reconciled to my wife; but I thought it right first to consult some of my friends.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER IX.

*Lazarillo is persuaded to prosecute Don Lozenzo,  
and his Wife.*

I HAVE often thought that men partake of the nature of hens, in this respect, that if they are about any thing meritorious, they take care to make such a noise that all the world is apprised of it ; whereas if we are inclined to commit any evil, we go about it very secretly, for fear any body should dissuade us from our intention.

I went to the house of one of my friends, in order to consult him on my case, and with him I found two others ; for since my change of fortune,



tune, these well-wishers multiplied around me, as flies furround fruit. I told them my design of being reconciled to my wife, and avoiding the scandal of evil tongues; that she had acknowledged her fault; and a confession of error was the surest token of amendment.

They all exclaimed violently against this plan; telling me, so far from putting a stop to scandal, I should excite it more strongly; that I should be looked upon as a mean spirited fellow to live again with such a notorious adultress. In fine, they represented the disgrace that would attend me in such strong terms, that I resolved nothing should prevail on me to live with her again.

My friends perceiving the impression

sion their opinion made, went still further, and advised me to endeavour to wash out the stain on my reputation, and prevent the total loss of my honour, by instituting a suit against Don Lorenzo and my wife. They assured me it should not cost me a crown, because they should take up the cause, and having great influence in the courts of justice, their friend Lazarillo need not doubt of every thing turning out as he wished.

One of these, a solicitor of unfortunate causes, offered me an hundred ducats, to receive my profit in this business; another still more adroit in his profession, being attorney to certain *women of honour*, said, if he were in my place, he would not sell them for two hundred; and the third, who was a serjeant, assured me he



had known suits, where the proofs were by no means so clear, that had turned out very profitable to those who had undertaken them. He had greater hopes of mine too, because he was certain Don Lorenzo would offer me a sum of money immediately to be silent; and recommend himself an accommodation between my wife and me, which would be vastly more honourable to me. In short, they all talked to me so much, and made use of so many arguments, assuring me of success, that I was over-persuaded to yield to their counsel, though I should have been glad to consult some other friends, for I could not help feeling an inclination to be reconciled to my wife. I reflected on the many obligations I had to her; that till I became her husband I was unknown and unfriended; that I was indebted



indebted to her for being first able to hold up my head; and though to be sure, the people used to point at me, and called me in derision, the patient Lazarillo, yet I had lived comfortably through her means. As for the child, which she said was not mine, I thought she might be mistaken as well as me. Perhaps some good people may be inclined to laugh at my credulity, but before they indulge themselves, I request they will consider how many toil and fatigue themselves to provide for children, not their own, while they carefs and honour the woman who injures their reputation, and renders them contemptible; who believe notwithstanding, that they have the best wife in the world. It may chance that he who laughs the most at me, may himself be equally entitled to the same

E 2                      ridicule.

ridicule. But leaving to others the enjoyment of their own opinion, I proceed to the relation of my adventures. In spite of my own pacific wishes, I was prevailed on to pursue the suit against Don Lorenzo ; and as I had money, I obtained their imprisonment in twenty four hours. My lawyers told me I must not be sparing of my money, because, as all the expences would fall finally on Don Lorenzo, I should be reimbursed. In order to have a more complete revenge, they persuaded me to augment the expences, even to my last real. My law friends were attentive, careful, and eager in my cause, for they smelt gold, as bees smell honey ; every step was taken with effect ; so that in eight days my suit was in a very good, and my purse in a very bad way.

Proofs

Proofs were easily had, for the officers who went in the night to seize my wife, found Don Lorenzo in possession of my apartment, from whence he and my wife were conveyed in the same habiliments, as they rose from bed. Thus I had witnesses enough, and their proofs were allowed to be undeniable. But, my good friends, the solicitor, serjeant, and attorney, finding the weakness of my purse, disappeared all at once. I was obliged to go in search of them, and found, instead of being so alert as formerly, they required as much spurring as a hack mule; in short the delay was so great that it became known to Don Lorenzo, and his friends, who began to tamper with my lawyers, and found them so easy of access, that in a few days, with the assistance of *an argument* I could no longer offer,



they all went over to his side; the success now resembled clock weights; that of my enemies rising in proportion as mine sunk.

They managed the matter so well, that in a fortnight Don Lozenzo and my wife were released from prison, upon giving security; and in less than eight days after poor Lazarillo was condemned, for suborning false witnesses, to the ignominious punishment of standing in a sheet in the church; and after that to go into perpetual banishment.

I was obliged also to ask pardon; and this I acknowledge to be just, for what an error had I been guilty of! A man with twenty crowns, to plead against one who had twenty thousand. I was reduced to give even to my  
shirt

shirt to pay the costs, and should have gone naked into exile, but for some old rags I found on a dunghill.

What a change had a short time made in my situation! Lately I was rich and contented, pleading against one of the richest men in Toledo; an undertaking fit only for a prince; respected by my friends, feared by my enemies, and too much a man of honour, to suffer a stain on my reputation. Now, robbed of all, poor, miserable, deserted by my friends, scorned by my enemies, and laughed at by all; banished too, from the place so long the object of my wishes and seat of my happiness. My sole consolation under this severe affliction, was, that since I was now at the very bottom of Fortune's wheel, I must neces-

farily soon gain a better situation, as that same wheel is always turning.

This idea I had imbibed from my old blind master. He often told me, that all mankind travelled on Fortune's wheel; some went with, some against its motion. Those who had the easy ascent, descended as rapidly as they rose; while those who ascended against the motion, though they attained the summit with difficulty, kept their station much longer than the others.

I found I was one of those who had ascended regularly, and the wheel turned so rapidly with me, that I was no sooner at top, than immediately I got to the bottom.

I went towards Madrid, asking alms  
by



by the way ; and to excite charity, related all my misfortunes : some pitied, others laughed at me ; but upon the whole, I got sufficient to support me. So much wine had been made this year, that at every place where I stopped almost, they asked me if I would not drink, for they had no meat to give me. I never refused, so that some days it happened I drank three or four pints of wine fasting ; this I found vastly agreeable.

To confess the truth, the life of a beggar is in my opinion the pleasantest in the world ; no other deserves to be compared with it ; if the rich once knew the sweets of it, they would relinquish all their wealth in exchange for the happiness it bestows ; in imitation of the philosophers, who give up every thing to obtain such a life.

E 5

For

For the life of a beggar, and that of a philosopher, are the same; the only difference being, that the former yield every thing for the sake of philosophy, whereas beggars gain philosophy, without yielding up any thing for it. The former relinquish their possessions, that they they may not be interrupted in their contemplations of nature, divinity, and the movement of heavenly bodies. The latter that they may give themselves up to their inclinations. The philosophers throw their wealth into the sea; the beggars drown theirs in their stomachs. The one regards it as transitory and perishable, the others despise it, because it is to be obtained only by that labour they hold in such abhorrence. So that the life of a beggar is assuredly more easy, tranquil, and pleasant, than that of a king,

king, emperor, or pope; for this reason I have chosen it, as a path of more freedom, and less danger or misery than any other.



## CHAPTER X.

*Lazarillo becomes a Porter.*

**W**HEN I arrived at Madrid I was so fortunate as to meet an old acquaintance. I consulted with him what I had best do in my situation, for I thought I might as well have two strings to my bow, that in case begging should sometimes be unprofitable, I might have another resource. He recommended to me, as my finances would not admit of my setting up in any very capital way, to turn porter, which he assured me was a very lucrative employment. I followed his advice, and purchasing a cord, went and took my station in the square, as contented as a cat that munches

munches tripe. The first who engaged me was one of those good natured nymphs that are to be found in all great cities. She led me a dance through so many streets, that I began to think she had a mind to make game of me; at length, however, she arrived at home: here she staid only a few minutes, and giving me a bundle, bid me follow her with it to the gate of Guadalvara, where she was going to take coach to go to the fair of Negara. The bundle was not heavy, for it consisted only of a few ribands, gallipots of paint, and phials of scented waters. As we went along she told me her history; that she was seduced at Seville, the place of her birth, by a young officer who when he was tired of her, placed her in the hands of an *old lady*, a *friend* of his, by whom she was robbed of every thing she

she possessed. In this situation she met with a young gentleman who took compassion of her; she lived with him till he died, and he left her a considerable sum of money; this she spent, and now lived on the public. I admired the frankness with which she related her adventures to me, but was rather inclined to think she carried this quality too far before we parted, for when we arrived at the place where the coach was waiting, I gave her the parcel, and desired to be paid. The fair damsel smiled, and asked me how I chose to be paid, by a kiss, or a box of the ear? I told her in great surprize, by neither; I was used to be paid by money. "Then, said she, if you won't chuse, I will;" and raising her hand, gave me such a blow on the side of my head as made my ears ring; adding, take that, novice;



novice ; are you yet to learn that people of our profession never pay money ? When she had said this, she leaped into the coach like a young doe, leaving me more ashamed than if I had been caught stealing a purse. Well, thought I, as soon as I came to my recollection, if this employment goes on as it has begun, I shall be very rich at the end of the year.

While I was making these reflections another coach arrived, which was come from Aleala de Henazes. The passengers were all scholars, women of pleasure, and monks. One of these last, of the order of St. Francis, asked me if I would carry his trunk to the convent ; I said yes, thinking to be sure that he would not cheat me, as the young jade had done. He helped me to put it on my shoulders ;  
the

the weight was so great that I could not have raised it without his assistance. I hoped, however, to be well paid for my fatigue in carrying it. I was almost overcome with fatigue by the time we reached the convent, which was at a great distance from the place whence we set out. When we got to the gate, the priest took the trunk from me, and going in, said to me, I thank you in the name of the Lord for the service you have rendered one of his servants; after which he shut the gate in my face. I staid some time in expectation that somebody would come to pay me, but finding them rather too deliberate in their motions, I knocked: the porter enquired what I wanted: I told him to be paid for the carriage of the trunk I had just brought. He desired me to go about my business, for they never paid away  
money

money ; adding, that I must not make any more noise at the gate, as it was the hour of repose in the convent ; if I did I might expect a good beating : —he then shut the door.

I was quite thunder-struck at hearing this ; one of the poor people who had assembled there, told me I had better not lose my time by staying there, for the fathers never touched money, living always upon alms. Let them live upon what they will, replied I, it is necessary that I should live also ; they shall pay me, therefore ; for the labourer is worthy of his hire, or I am not Lazarillo de Tormes.

Saying this, I began once more to knock violently at the door, upon which a lay brother, a great strapping fellow came out, and without saying  
with



with your leave or by your leave, gave me such a blow as brought me to the ground like a rotten pear, and then putting one knee on my stomach, he began pounding me as an apothecary pounds his drugs; he finished the ceremony by giving me a score blows with a hard twisted cord. I was as sorely bruised by this discipline, as if the tower that contains the great clock at Saragossa had fallen on me.

I remained full half an hour extended on the ground, without power to rise; my senses, were however, unimpaired. I reflected as I lay thus on my unhappy destiny, and the misapplication of strength of my degenerate Hercules. I thought the drones who inhabit convents, had better be employed in the service of their king and country, than take the bread out of the mouths of the poor. Though, indeed,

indeed, they are not fit for that, being such a pack of sluggards. This was the opinion of our emperor (Charles the Fifth) too. When the general of the Cordeliers offered him two and twenty thousand priests to carry on the war, the oldest of which was not forty, nor the youngest two and twenty, he thanked him, but declined accepting it, saying, he must then have two and twenty thousand cooks; signifying thereby, that priests were more expert at table than at work.

Ever since that period, I have held the wole fraternity, (God forgive me) in such aversion, that I always think when I meet one of them in the world, I see a dove among the bees. The specimen I had had of the fruits of my employment, inclined me to resign it, but I thought I would give it a fair trial, and see the result of four and twenty hours experience.

CHAP.

## CHAPTER XI.

*Lazarillo meets an old Lady. The Consequence.*

**F**AIN'T and almost dying of hunger, I crawled along till I came to the corn market; there I met an old lady who had the air of a devout; her teeth were so long, that they looked like the tusks of a boar. She came up to me, and asked if I would carry a chest to the house of a friend of hers who lived hard by, and that she would give me four-pence for doing it.

When I heard the sweet sound of being paid in money, I thanked providence, and told the good old dame that I would willingly do as she desired. Though, to be sure, I would rather have received the cash without carrying



carrying the burthen, for indeed, I stood more in need of being carried myself, than fit to carry any thing for others. It was with the utmost difficulty I supported the weight of the chest, which was very large and heavy. The old lady desired me to go along very carefully, because the chest contained some phials in it of great value. I assured her I would move very cautiously; indeed I could not do otherwise, being scarce able to move from pain and hunger. We had not far to go, happily for me. When we arrived, the old lady was very well received by her friends, who caressed her, and particularly a pretty young damsel, who seemed particularly delighted at her visit. My employer told her she was going to Segovia, and wished, in her absence, that she might be permitted to leave it with her friends; the young lady

lady offered to take care of it, and receiving the key, promised, smiling, to be true to her trust. The old lady then took leave, thanking her father and mother for their permission of leaving her trunks there, and whispering the young one, who blushed like a new blown rose. At her departure she gave me the four-pence she had promised, telling me, if I would come to her house again the next morning, I might earn the same sum.

I went away as happy as a prince, and laid out three-pence on my supper, the other penny I reserved to pay my night's lodging. I now reflected on the power of money. By the acquisition of this four-pence, I was become as light as air, as valiant as Roland, and as strong as Hercules.

Oh

Oh money! money! it is not without reason that so many people idolize thee as a divinity! Thou art the cause of all evil; the inventor of all arts; and 'tis thou who preservest them. To thee it is owing that the sciences are valued, and opinions maintained; that towns are fortified, and castles demolished; that kingdoms are gained, and kingdoms are lost. Tis thou who preservest virtue, and thou who destroyest it. In fine, there is nothing so difficult but thou canst render easy; nothing so concealed, but thou canst discover it. No mountain so high, that thou canst not level it; nor abyss so deep, but thou canst elevate it.

The next day I went to the old lady's house, as she desired. She bad me follow her to the house where we had been the day before, to fetch back  
the



the trunk. When we got there, she told the master of the house that she had met the relation she was going to see at half a league's distance from Madrid, where she was coming with the same intention as she herself had set out, to see how her friend did. That as her journey was therefore deferred, she was come to fetch her trunk. The young lady returned the key, kissing and embracing the old lady with still more ardor than the day before. They both helped me to put the trunk upon my shoulder, whispering each other all the while. I thought that it was lighter than the day before, because I was more at my ease, and therefore *my* heart was lighter.

In going down stairs, I trod upon a stick, which my good friend the devil

devil placed there on purpose, I verily believe. It rolled under my feet, and threw me, trunk and all to the bottom, where stood the father and mother of the *innocent* girl. The violence of the fall bruised me, and was attended with other fatal consequences; for the lock of the trunk giving way, discovered, that it contained a young cavalier armed cap-a-pee.

He had no cloak on, but was dressed in a short coat and breeches of green velvet; a hat with a feather of the same colour; garters of a bright carnation; green stockings, and white shoes. He jumped up with great agility and grace, and making a low bow, walked out at the door. The old people were thunderstruck at the sight of this vision. They looked at each other for a considerable time

without speaking ; at length, recovering from their astonishment, they called their two sons, and related to them what had happened. These young heroes foamed with rage at hearing the story, and taking their swords, swore they would murder the defiler of their house. The old people then went in search of the old woman to wreak their vengeance on her ; but she having heard the noise, and suspecting the occasion of it, made off by a back door, taking her young pupil with her. Finding themselves thus disappointed, they returned and fell upon me without mercy ; for I was so overpowered by the weight of the chest, my bruises, and weak state, that I could not get up ; I should otherwise most certainly have followed the example of those who had brought me into this scrape.

The



The brothers soon returned, puffing and blowing, sweating and swearing, for they had not been able to overtake the gallant; and they now vowed they would murder the old woman and their sister, who had brought such disgrace on them.

One said, had he met the villain, though he had been surrounded by an infernal troop of the most furious demons, he would have cut them to pieces like so many flies. Approach! approach! (added he) thou devil! Rodolphus fears thee not! tis thou who art in awe of him, and durst not appear before him. Could I see that wretch, I would with my breath blow him to such a distance that he should never more be heard of. The other said, if I caught him, the largest piece left of him would have been his ear.

F 2

But

But if he is upon earth, or even if he is not, he shall not escape my clutches. For though he were to hide himself in the very bowels of the earth, I would draw him thence.

While they were thus rhodomontading, I expected when they would turn their rage upon poor Lazarillo. But I was more afraid of six or seven little mischievous children who were assembled round me, than of those braggadocias. I was not deceived; for great and small all at once fell upon me. Some pinched me, others scratched me; they pulled my hair, and beat me, till I cried out murder.

The blows came so quick after each other, that it was like threshing corn, or milling cloth, where the strokes of  
the

the mallet are incessant. At length, perceiving that I was breathless, they ceased to beat, but not to threaten me; some were for throwing me into the water; others for killing me. The old father interfered now, and desired them to desist, promising me if I would inform him who the villain was that had robbed him of his honour, he would set me at liberty.

It was impossible I could comply with this, because I had never seen the gallant till he had come out of the trunk. I assured them I did not know him; upon which they began again. I did nothing but sigh, groan, and lament my hard fate, which destined me perpetually to new misfortunes and incessant misery. I made signs as well as I could that I would tell them all if they would let me

F 3                      alone.



alone. They then desisted, and I proceeded to relate literally all that had happened.---They did not believe me, however. Seeing that the tempest was not likely to cease, I resolved to deceive them if I could. I therefore told them, I would inform them of what they wanted to know, if they would attend to me. They then left off beating me, and promised wonders, if I satisfied them. They asked me his name, and where he lived? I replied, that I could tell neither one nor the other; but, that if they would carry me through the streets, (to walk was impossible, in my situation) I would shew them his house.

They appeared rejoiced at this, and gave me some wine, which greatly refreshed me. They then armed them-

themselves, and taking me under the arms like a bridegroom, carried me about the town. The people, as they went along, made their observations aloud ; one said, there's a man going to prison ; another supposed I was going to the hospital ; but none offered to give me a clane. Mean time I continued my route, very much disturbed at the thoughts of how this would end. Sometimes I thought of crying out for help ; but I considered that they would then prefer a complain against me to justice, and this I dreaded more than death. To escape was impossible too, even if I had strength to run away, being surrounded by the relations of the young wanton who had brought this mischief on me, who were armed like so many St. George's.

We went on traversing streets and

F 4                      lanes,

lanes, they not knowing where they were going, nor I where I was directing them. At length we arrived at the Sun-gate, in one of the streets leading to which we perceived a smart cavalier walking,---he had his cloak under his arm, a cane in one hand, and a nosegay in the other; by his air and manner, one should have taken him for the cousin-german of the emperor. As he approached nearer, I discovered that he was no other than my old friend and master, *the squire of Old Castile*, who had stolen my cloaths and purse. I thanked fortune for this rencontre, and resolved to kill two birds with one stone, by extricating myself out of my present difficulty, and being revenged on him. I therefore said, gentlemen, here comes the person we are in search of; he has been home I see to change his dress.

This



This was enough for people who were blinded by their rage. Without asking any more questions, they all flew upon him at once, they knocked him down, and then began to pummel and pinch him as they had served me. One of the valiant brothers seeing he could make no defence, was going to run him through the body, but the father prevented him; and sending for some officers of justice, delivered the cavalier into their hands. When I saw all were engaged, I seized the opportunity, and escaped to a place which concealed me effectually.

My friend, the squire, it seems, had recognized me, and supposing those who had accompanied me were relations that came to demand the property he had robbed me of, told them if they would let him alone, he would

pay for two suits. But they stopped his mouth with their fists. They then led him, all over blood and dirt, to prison. And as soon as the coast was clear, I quitted my hiding place, cursing the business I had followed there, and all who employed me in it.

## CHAPTER XII

*Lazarillo resolves to return to his native Place. His  
Adventures on the Road.*

I WISHED to have quitted Madrid immediately, but my strength was not answerable to my resolution. Hence I was obliged to remain a few days longer. And I was not very ill off during this time ; for being obliged to make use of crutches, I excited so much compassion, that the alms bestowed on me enabled me to live very comfortably. I believe the comfort I found here would have led me to remain some time longer, but one day, as I was taking my dinner, I heard a man relate the history of the trunk exactly as it happened ; adding

F 6                      what



what I had not heard, that the cavalier who was put in prison upon presumption of his being the knight of the chest, had proved an alibi. The people where he lived vouching, that he had neither been out of the house, or worn any other clothes that day. But, notwithstanding this he had been banished disgracefully from Madrid as a vagabond; and that the brothers of the girl were in search of the porter who had deceived them, swearing, if they found him, to beat him to death.

I opened my eyes as wide as my ears at this discourse, and took myself off immediately.---I got myself a green patch to put over one eye, and shaved my beard like a Monk's, which so completely disguised, that my own mother could not have known me.

I quitted

I quitted Madrid, and took the road to Tezares, resolving to pay a visit to my native place, and try if that would be more favourable to me than every other place had proved.

Before I had gone half a league I met with a company of gipsies, who took up their abode in a cavern underground. Seeing me at a distance, they took me for one of their own fraternity; indeed my appearance justified the supposition; but on my nearer approach they discovered their error, and went aside as if to hold a consultation among themselves. I enquired my way of them, and they told me I was not in the road to Salamanca, but to Valladolid. As I had no particular reason to prefer one place to another, I told them I would, since my face was turned that way, go to Valladolid,

Valladolid, and see that city, before I returned to my native place.

One of the oldest of these people asked me of what place I was? and when I answered of Tezares, he desired me to stay and dine with him, as I loved my neighbour; for that he was of Salamanca. I accepted his offer; and when we had dined, the company requested I would relate the adventures of my life to them. I complied without much entreaty, and recounted every particular in as concise a manner as possible. When I came to the part that described the overthrow of the tub that held the poor triton, at the inn in Madrid, they all burst out a laughing, especially a young man and woman, whose mirth was more strongly excited than any body's else. I began to blush,  
think-



thinking they were making game of me. But my neighbour, the old gipsy, told me not to be ashamed, for that they did not laugh at my adventures, which were calculated to inspire admiration, rather than ridicule. That since I had placed so much confidence in them, it was right they should return it; and therefore relying on my secrecy, he would, with their permission, relate the cause of their laughing. Having obtained the leave of the company, he proceeded, as will be seen in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER XIII.

*Story of the Gipsy.*

YOU are to know then, said the old gipsy, that the young man and woman who laughed so heartily, are those who jumped through the window when the deluge from the tub threatened to drown them. As they will, however, relate more exactly than I can what has happened to them since, and the cause of their being among us, I must beg them to inform you of their adventures themselves. The chaste heroine, then, in a voice that captivated the attention of her illustrious auditors, proceeded thus with the story.

• The

“ The day that I quitted, or rather fled from my father’s house with Signor Vruez, whom you see here, you may remember we were overtaken, and imprisoned. I was placed in a room furnished in the most elegant manner by those ingenious artists the spiders, and perfumed with all the odours of garlic, gin, tobacco, &c. My lover, less fortunate, was confined in a dungeon. He did not remain there long, however, for having some rich relations, they found means to deliver him. I was given to the care of the commander, who being young and gallant, and finding me not ugly, became more the slave of my charms than I was of his power. To this circumstance I was indebted for a speedy change in my situation. I was removed to a better appartment, and treated like a captive princess. My  
governor



governor omitting nothing to render my abode there agreeable to me. It was in vain that my parents (who loved me in spite of their resentment) attempted to obtain my release; they were counteracted in all their schemes by the commander, who could not bear the thoughts of losing me.

“ In the mean time, my lover, Signor Vruetz, to whom I was still constant in spite of all the assiduities of my new admirer, was devising various stratagems to obtain an interview with me. At length he succeeded, by the means of one of those kind-hearted old ladies who are to be met with at every corner of the street in Spain. She dressed him up as a servant maid, muffling his face to conceal his beard, under pretence of the tooth-ach.

“ I will

“ I will not pretend to describe our mutual joy at this meeting, but proceed to inform you of the means we contrived for our escape. A ball was given that evening by the Count de la Mirandole, at which the gipseys were to dance a ballet. Signor Renard (the name my lover bears in this community) engaged them in his interest, and a plan was agreed on, which succeeded so well, that I obtained my liberty, and the company of my lover, which is more dear to me than any thing else in the world.

“ The first step to be taken was to engage my new admirer to allow me to see the ball. To this end I employed a thousand caresses and endearments, making more vows than are offered up during a storm at sea. He was so charmed by my conduct, that

that he could refuse me nothing. He desired me to ask what I would; that my wishes should be the directors of his conduct, provided they did not deprive him of my society."

"I made him many acknowledgments for his kindness, and told him his absence was death to me; that my dread of parting with him, even for a few hours, were such, I begged he would allow me to attend him to the ball that night, as his going was indispensable. This was a very difficult matter; however, he was too much blinded by his love to refuse me any thing.

"He told me that it would be necessary for me to disguise myself; and he thought the most effectual way would be to dress myself as a page;  
this



this being agreed on, he procured me a very magnificent suit. The colour was green, trimmed with broad gold; the cloak velvet, lined with yellow sattin; a cap, with a plume of heron's feathers, and a chain of diamonds; a ruff of the finest lace, yellow silk stockings, with green garters, and white shoes; a sword and dagger, with gold hilts.

“ Thus equipped, I attended the commander to the ball. I found there a vast number of people of quality very richly dressed. There were also several in masks and veils. I was soon joined by Signor Renard, who kept close to me all the time, but without speaking, to avoid suspicion. I shall pass over all other occurrences of the ball, to come to that which particularly concerns us. The ballet which  
the

the Egyptians were to dance, was scarcely began, when one said, you are out ; the other replied, you lie ; this was answered by the first speaker's running him through the body. The blood followed the sword so quickly, that it seemed as if an ox had been killed. The guards, who at first thought the quarrel was a part of the entertainment, now began to cry out, justice ! help ! justice ! All the men drew their swords ; I was obliged to follow their example, though I trembled, and was ready to faint at the sight of the very sword in my own hand.

The man who had given the stroke was seized, and given into the charge of the commander, who was obliged to attend him to prison. He would fain have taken me with him, but was  
afraid

afraid of my being discovered, therefore contented himself with desiring me, in a whisper, to await his return in a corner of the room he pointed out. As soon as we were sure of his departure, Signor Renard taking me under his arm, led me into the street, where one of his friends was waiting, who conveyed us immediately to his lodgings.

When the wounded gipsy, whom we supposed dead by this time, had notice from a private signal that we were safe, he jumped up to the astonishment of the whole company, saying, we hope, ladies and gentlemen, you will allow we are good actors, since we have so effectually deceived all present. Learn that I am neither killed, or even wounded; but devised this stratagem merely to divert this illustrious assembly." When he had thus



thus ended his speech, he shewed them a bladder, placed under his waistcoat, which being pierced by the sword, had produced the effect which surprised them so much. All the company were delighted with this scene, except the poor commander, who had indeed reason to be very much dissatisfied. When he returned to the place where he had appointed me to stay, he appeared surprised not to find me there. He searched every part of the room in vain; he then came out, and applying to one of the people who had been placed there for the purpose, enquired if he had seen a young man pass dressed in such a manner? The person replied, he had; and that he got into a coach and ordered the driver to go towards St. Philips.

“ Upon

“ Upon this information, my lover set out instantly in pursuit of us, but was doomed to a fruitless search that night; for he went to the east, while we made our escape at the west. I had taken the precaution before I quitted Madrid to change my dress, which we sold for upwards of two hundred reals. We got four hundred crowns for the chain, two hundred of which I gave to those gentlemen, according to Signor Renard’s promise; and from them I have learnt the circumstances that occurred after my departure from the ball.

“ This is the history of my release; if there is any other information in my power to give the noble Signor Lazarillo, I beg he will command me; his gallant appearance intitles him to our poor services.”

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Here

Here the lovely Egyptian concluded. I thanked her and the whole company in the politest terms that I could find, for their civilities; and took my leave. The old man insisted on bearing me company half a league on my way. As we went along, I asked him if all those we had parted from were born in Egypt? He laughed at the notion, and assured me in his own language, the devil of one was born out of Spain; that they were all cheats, robbers, monks, and nuns, who had escaped from prisons and convents. That none seemed to enjoy the way of life so much as those who came from the monasteries; and that they were always employed upon occasions that required extraordinary finesse. With this, and such conversation, the old man



man entertained me till we parted, which was done with mutual regret; he returned to his society, and I took the road to Valladolid.

## CHAPTER XIV.

*Lazarillo's Rencontre at an Inn near Valladolid.*

I REFLECTED as I went along, on the lives and customs of the community I had left, and was astonished that such a set of vagabonds were allowed to roam about plundering and cheating all that came in their way ; for all the world knew them to be errant thieves and impostors.

Their societies are but so many seminaries for apostates, and schools for wickedness. I was particularly struck, by hearing, that those who had known the sweets of a quiet monastic life, should quit it for one so wretched as that of the gipsy's. I should

should scarcely have credited what my informer had said, but that he shewed me at a distance a young man and woman who were not yet tanned by the sun; they were sitting under a tree singing psalms. “Those, said the old man, are a monk and a nun, who, within these eight days have changed their community for ours, in order to embrace a more *austere* life.

When I got within a little distance of Valladolid, I saw at the door of an inn the old woman who had caused me so much misery at Madrid. Before I approached her near enough to speak, the knight of the chest and his fair mistress came out to invite her in to dinner. I was so disguised that they could not know me. I therefore followed them in, and placed

G 3

myself



myself so as to be seen by them, to try if they would give me a plaister for the wounds received in their service. But I soon found they were not in a condition to give any thing away. The gallant had been so liberal in his treats to his mistress and her duenna, that they were now reduced to content themselves with a little bit of hog's liver stewed with garlic. I could have swallowed the whole in two mouthfuls. Their bread was as black as the table-cloth, which resembled the tunick of a penitent, or a foot bag.

“ Eat, my life, said the lover to his mistress; this fricassée is fit for the emperor.” The old lady did not require urging; she would not speak, lest it should interrupt her eating; in a short time they had scraped the  
dish

dish so clean, that even all the varnish was gone as well as the sauce.

This wretched meal finished, which had rather excited their appetite than satisfied it, the gallant began to make excuses for the short commons, alledging that the house was ill provided. I owed him a grudge for all he had caused me to suffer, and therefore was not sorry to mortify them a little. I called to the host, and enquired what I could have for dinner; he told me according to the price I was willing to pay. Having named a good sum, he told me I should have a hind quarter of kid. When ready, it was brought according to my directions to the bottom of the table, where they were placed. When I began to eat, it was highly gratifying to me to observe their looks with every

mouthful I swallowed ; three pair of large eyes which were fixed immovably on every morsel.

The young damsel began to employ her tongue soon as well as her eyes. "How is this, said she, that poor wretch has a whole quarter of a kid for his own dinner, and we had only a mouthful of sorry fricassée for three of us." Her lover replied, that he had asked the host for some fowls or partridges ; but he had assured him that he had nothing else in the house. I heard this without seeming to attend, but kept eating on. I perceived, however, that the kid had the property of the loadstone ; its attraction was so strong, that when I least expected it, I found three forks in my dish. First the young lady reached out her hand and helped herself, saying,



ing, with your leave friend ; but she thought the compliment enough, not waiting permission. The old woman reproved her for robbing the poor. The young one defended herself by saying she would pay me ; and set to again as if she had not tasted any thing for a week. The old woman's scruples being thus removed, she began to help herself ; and the gallant observing that it must needs be excellent, since they relished it so much, seized a piece as big as his fist, and crammed it into his mouth all at once.

As this freedom was not quite so agreeable to me as it seemed to them, I resolved to put a stop to it, and therefore snatching up what remained, I put it into my mouth ; but when I got it there, I found my eye bigger than

my mouth, for the devil a bit would it stir either one way or the other.

In the midst of my distress from this awkward accident, two cavaliers well armed, arrived at the inn. They enquired if they could have any thing to eat? the host assured them they should have whatever they pleased, and requested them in the mean time to walk into the parlour.

The old woman, who at the sound of the horses' feet, went to the door to satisfy her curiosity, returned in a violent fright, wringing her hands; she ran up to the young lady, whose name was Clara, and in a low voice, trembling, told her they were ruined, for her brothers were arrived.

The fair damsel began to tear her  
hair,

hair, and beat herself like one distracted. Her lover attempted to console her, assuring her she had nothing to fear in his presence; that he would protect her with the last drop of his blood.

Incommoded as I was with my *mouthful* (literally speaking) of kid, I felt less concerned from the fear of being choaked, than from apprehensions respecting these youths who were approaching; indeed they were so great, I thought I should have died; and verily believe I should too, but that my gullet being stopped up, the soul which I felt rising to my mouth was prevented escaping, and therefore returned to its habitation.

The instant these valiant Hectors entered the room, they perceived the



old duenna, their sister, and her lover ; upon which they exclaimed ; so ! so ! here they are ! we have them now ! let them escape if they can ! they shall suffer for their crime ! we will wash the stain out with their blood ! I was so alarmed at their threats, that I fell down, and with such force, that the piece of kid flew out of my mouth, and bounded to the very cieling. When the heroes had finished their speech, they made up to the fair Clara ; her champion however interrupted them ; and drawing his sword, prepared to attack them with so much courage, that they remained motionless. The words seemed to freeze in their mouths, and the swords in their scabbards. The lover asked them in the true rhodomontade stile of a Spaniard, what they wanted ? and who they were in search of ? and at  
the

the same time seizing one of their swords, he held it to the throat of the owner, directing his own to the eyes of the other, while they trembled like aspen leaves. The old woman and their sister observing them so pale and frightened, went up to them and took away the rest of their arms. For my part, seeing things take this turn, I got upon my legs, and had seized one of these valiant youths by the beard, when the host came in to enquire the cause of the noise he heard.

These braggadocias reminded me of the counterfeit bulls of my country, which the children are so much afraid of at first sight; but observing them not quite so furious in reality as they appear, they gain courage by degrees, and at last approach them so near,  
that

that the deception being found out, they treat them with all sorts of indignity. Thus I, perceiving these youths not what they had affected, grew bold, and attacked them with a degree of courage beyond what my late fright seemed to promise my being possessed of.

When the landlord enquired the cause of this confusion, the women, their champion, and myself, told him those men were thieves, who had set upon us with a design to rob us. The landlord seeing them disarmed, and us victorious, took part with the strongest. “How, said he, thieves in my house!” and without attending to any thing they alleged, took them by the collar, and put them into a vault under ground. A boy whom they had hired to carry their port-manteau,



manteau, and take care of their horses, hearing they were seized, took horse, and made off so expeditiously for fear of being involved in their disgrace, that there was no fear of our story being disproved on his evidence.

The landlord seeing a prospect of such good booty, (for the boy, that he might not be incommoded in his retreat, had left the baggage behind) began a process immediately against the supposed robbers; and to induce us to sign it, would insist on not being paid for what we had eaten.

Then in quality of member of the court of inquisition, which he professed himself, and officer of justice for that district, he condemned the delinquents to receive two hundred lashes, and be sent to the galleys.

The

The prisoners appealed to the Chancelry of Valladolid, where the landlord attended them, with three of his servants. But when the poor devils thought to plead in a court of justice, they found themselves before the inquisition. For their accuser had inserted in his process, a charge against them of speaking disrespectfully concerning the officers of the holy inquisition; a crime never pardoned.

They were put into a dungeon, and forbidden the use of pen and ink; so that they could not apprize their relations or friends of their situation to obtain relief. Here we shall leave them for the present, and proceed to inform my readers, that as we were going towards Valladolid, we met the landlord returning from his errand. He told us the court of inquisition had  
ordered

ordered him to bring the witnesses before them. However, as our friends, he would advise us to conceal ourselves, or make our escape from that neighbourhood.

The young lady gave him a ring from her finger, begging him at the same time to assist their flight, since there was nothing she so much dreaded as being brought before that court. This he readily promised to do; for the rascal had only given this alarm to engage us to fly the place, fearing, that if the witnesses were interrogated, his villainy would be discovered.

This was not the only thing of the kind he had done. A fortnight after, I saw the two victims, among many other penitents, come out of the inquisition to walk in procession: they  
were



were gagged, to signify that they had been guilty of blasphemy, in traducing the ministers of the holy inquisition; beings as perfect and upright as the justice they administer.

Each offender wore a mitre, and *sana benito*, on which were written their crime, and consequent punishment. I confess, though I knew their innocence, I did not feel much pity for them, because they had none for me, as my bones still could testify. The sentence passed on them, was to receive three hundred lashes, and be sent to the galleys; so that in all, they received five hundred, and were pretty well cured of their rhodomontade and bragging, I fancy.

I often met these friends of mine afterwards near the Magdelans; they  
did

did not know me, and I was not much inclined to renew the acquaintance. I learnt too that their sister went into a convent of *kind-hearted nuns*; and that the old woman followed her usual occupation in the same place.

## CHAPTER XV.

*Lazarillo becomes the Valet of seven Mistresses.*

WHEN I arrived at Valladolid, I had fix reals in my pocket, for many charitable people seeing me so pale, and weak, relieved me with a liberal hand, and I received their alms with one that was not niggardly; I went to a sale shop, and bought for four reals, a long cloak of frieze, which had been the property of a Portugueze, and to be sure was rather the worse for wear. With another half real, I purchased a hat with a deep rim, and a crown as high as a chimney; thus equipped, and a stick in my hand, I walked in the square. Every body mocked me as I passed;

one



one said I was a philosopher of Bacchus; another, there goes St. Peter in his holiday clothes; another, hollo! Signor Ratsbane! will you have some tallow to grease your boots? another swore I was a skeleton who had just walked from the surgeons. I made no answer to these ralleries, but passed on as if I had been deaf.

Passing along a street I met a woman with a young boy, who seemed to serve her for a walking stick, for she held her hand on his head. She stopped me to enquire if I knew of any one who wanted the place of usher; I told her I knew of no other than myself; that if I suited her, I should be proud to serve her.

We agreed upon the spot; she engaged

gaged to give me three pieces of three  
clanes for my weeks salary, and I took  
possession of my office, by giving her  
my arm. I threw away my stick,  
which I had only made use of as to  
shew my weakness, and excite com-  
passion. She then sent the boy home,  
desiring him to tell the maid to get  
the dinner ready by the time she  
returned. We traversed the town  
for two hours, and I found I had got  
into the service of one of the greatest  
gossips in Valladolid. The first place  
we went to, finding I was but a no-  
vice in my business, she told me I  
must go before her to the house she  
meant to visit, and enquire if the  
mistress was at home; and if she was,  
inform her that Dame Pirez (the name  
of my mistress) was come to pay her  
respects to her. I promised to do  
exactly as she desired. My mistress  
was

was veiled so, that I did not yet know what sort of a woman she was; my curiosity I own was strongly excited on the occasion; I wished to know whether she was young or old, handsome or ugly.

As we were going along, she told me she was not in a situation that permitted her to keep a servant to herself, and that she must, therefore, go among her neighbours to find some who wanted one; and altogether would pay me the wages she had engaged for. She enquired if I had a lodging; I told her not; she said, then I might sleep at her house with the apprentices, her husband being a taylor. She assured me I should find myself as well off as in any place in that city, and in three days time  
should



should have six mistresses, who would each give me a clane per day.

I was astonished at the pomposity of this woman, whom one should have taken at least for the wife of a gentleman, if not a nobleman; and not greatly rejoiced to find I was to serve six mistresses, for such a poor pittance as six clanes a day.

I considered, however, that this was better than starving; and what farther reconciled me to it was, that no work was required; this I always dreaded like the devil, and had rather subsist upon cabbage and garlic, without labour, than regale upon capons and partridges, with it.

When we got home, my mistress gave me her cloak and veil to carry away;

away; I then saw her face which I had so much desired; she was not ugly, being tall, clear complexioned, and of a good mien. But not contented with the gifts of nature, she had tried to conceal a brown skin, under a varnish of white paint, which made it shine like a glazed plate, or an earthen porringer.

She gave me a clane, desiring me to come to her twice a day, at eight in the morning, and three in the afternoon, to know if I was wanted.

I went then to a pastry cook's, where I made a miserable dinner on a little patté, for my whole wages. The rest of the day was passed wretchedly enough, for all the money I had received in alms, was spent, and I dared not ask more, for if my

mistress had heard of it, I suppose she would have been ready to eat me. At three o'clock I returned to her; she told me she should not want me that day, and gave me to understand for the future, she should only pay me my wages on those days she went out; and if she went out but once, I must expect to receive only half the sum proposed; that moreover she should expect, as she gave me my lodging, that I was to call myself her valet. Undoubtedly, she was intitled to this distinction, in favour of the bed, as my readers will judge from a description of it:—it consisted of a large table, with simply, an old dirty coverlid. I resolved from this moment, always to distrust splendid promises, for I had experienced in the present case, and in that of the squire, that those  
who



who were most profuse in that coin, seldom pay in any other.

Two days I passed in this wretched way; at the end of that time, the wife of a tanner entered into the community, and bargained above an hour with me, about the paltry sum she was to pay. In fine, at the end of seven days, I had seven mistresses, from each of whom I received a clane for wages. I now began to live luxuriously; I eat and drank plentifully, if not of the best, at least of what was wholesome, for I resolved to *cut my coat according to my cloth*.

My five other mistresses were, the widow of a bailiff; the wife of a gardiner; a very pretty young woman, who passed for the cousin of a barefooted Carmelite; and a vender of

H 2                      tripe;

tripe; this last was my favorite of all my mistresses, for she always gave me something relishing to eat whenever I went to her house. There was scarce a day I did not eat three or four messes of excellent soup with her; so that I had nothing left to pray for, but a continuance of this good fortune. I must not forget to mention my seventh mistress; she was a devotee, and gave me more trouble than all the rest; for she was fond of an active life, always bustling about; when her limbs were quiet, her tongue was sure to be going, so that she was in perpetual motion. Of all the hypocrites I ever beheld, this woman was the greatest. When she walked out, her eyes were never raised from the earth, nor her hands removed from her beads. All who met her were so struck by her sanctified air, that they begged to be remembered in her prayers,

prayers, saying, they were sure they must be successful. She replied, that she was a great sinner; and she spoke truth; for she attempted to deceive, even while she told it.

Each of my mistresses had their appointed hour, so that when I left one, I went to the other, till I had finished my task; and, if by chance I was not punctual to a moment, they abused me like a pickpocket, let who would be present, threatening me if I did not pay more attention, they would provide themselves with an usher who was more diligent, attentive, and exact. To have heard these women menace in such a pompous stile, any body would have thought they had given me two reals a-day, and thirty ducats a year salary. It was truly ridiculous to see them

H 3.

walking



walking in the streets; they assumed such consequence, that those who saw them, took them for the wives of a president, or at least of an officer in chancery.

One day, it happened, that the fair cousin of the Carmelite, and the bailiff's widow, met at church; each wanted to return home immediately, and desired me to attend them first; hence a violent dispute arose, and at length they began to pull my cloak; the maid took me one side, the widow the other, and pulled me with such violence, that they tore it in a cruel manner. I was thus left almost naked, having only an old dirty shirt underneath, that looked like a fisherman's net. Those who saw my poor shriveled skin through the holes, laughed till their sides shook. The church seemed  
more

more like a tavern, than a place of worship; some amused themselves with laughing at poor Lazarillo; others attended to the fair dames, who, not contented with relating all they had ever heard against each other, disturbed the very ashes of the dead, by reciting all the scandal of the preceding generations. Fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, were rogues and —.

I was so anxious to gather up the pieces of my cloak, that I did not stay to hear the end of the dialogue. I only heard the nymph say, wherefore so proud, you impudent jade; do you think, because you wear a silk gown now, that people will forget you were once without one?

Mind your own affairs, you slut,

H 4

returned

returned the gentle widow ; to what do you owe your fine clothes ? The blessing of the church, forsooth ; if you had the gown you deserve, it would be horse-hair. Before I got out of the place, they had proceeded to blows ; and but for the interposition of the spectators, would have torn each others eyes out. I met a devotee at the door, whom I asked for a few pins, with which I fastened the pieces of my cloak together as well as I could, and thought of the old proverb, that “ *a tattered cloak may cover a good drinker.* ” When I had done this, I went to my commander in chief, the taylor’s wife, who had ordered me to attend her at eleven o’clock, as she was going to dine with some of her friends. When she saw the condition of my cloak, she began to scold most furiously, saying, do you think, you rascal, to receive



receive my wages, and to attend upon me, dressed like a blackguard? For less than I give you, I could have an usher neatly dressed with a cloak, doublet, and hose, and a smart cap, and one who was sober; for your part, you do nothing but get drunk, you sot.

I must be very ingenious, thought I, to get drunk with five or six clanes at most; and again, in my heart, cursed the pomposity and pride of my country. My mistress made some of the journeymen sew the pieces of my cloak together, which they did in such a hurry, that they were placed upside *down*. And thus accoutred, I conducted my mistress.

## CHAPTER XVI.

*What happens to Lazarillo at a Feast.*

**W**E went in as great a hurry as a priest who is invited to a good dinner, for my mistress was afraid there would not be enough left for her. When we arrived at the place, we found many others there who had been invited. The mistress of the ceremonies enquired if I might be trusted to keep the door? Go then friend, said she, and you shall not keep fast to-day.

Several young men came in; one took a partridge out of his pocket, another a fowl, a third a rabbit, others beef, mutton, sausages, and nice pies.  
They

They gave them all to the cook; and while they were preparing, went in to entertain the ladies. I must leave the imagination of my readers to guess what passed at this curious meeting, since it is impossible to describe it. This comedy finished, the noble assembly went to dinner. The ladies eat the *kiries*, and the gallants drank *l'ite missa est*. The former began to fill their pockets, the latter to empty theirs. Some produced cheese, others apples, olives, and sweetmeats.

This mode of keeping one's dinner so close at hand, pleased me much. I resolved to have three or four pockets in the very next doublet it should please Providence to send me, of which one should be made of leather, to hold soup; for certainly, if such great folks as these could condescend to carry their

H 6

food,



food, the one raw, and the others dressed, in their pockets; I, who was only the usher of *complaisant ladies*, might do it with propriety.

When these gentlefolks had dined, their servants went to follow their example; but the devil of any thing there was but soup; and I was surprised that the ladies did not put even this into their sleeves. We had not half finished our meal, when we heard a violent noise in the dining-room; and going to learn the cause, we found our mistresses disputing about precedence, and the superiority of their birth; some boasted of the rank of their parents, others of their husbands; and finding it impossible to settle the matter by words, they came to blows; boxes of the ear, kicks, pinches, and scratches, went about at a great rate; some

some not content with this, tore each others hair off by handfuls ; in short, they were so discomposed, that they looked like furies. It so happened, that the peace officers passed during this uproar. As they could not fail to hear the noise, they knocked at the gate, and ordered it to be opened immediately.

The instant our gentry found who were there, they ran away to hide themselves, leaving hats, caps, swords, and cloaks behind them. For my part, having nothing to fear, I opened the door, that I might not be accused of resisting justice. The first man who entered, took me by the collar, and said, I was his prisoner. After this they all came in, and shutting the gate, went to seek after those who had made the riot. They left no place unsearched ;  
chambers,

chambers, closets, garrets, and cellar were examined, but to no purpose; they then questioned me, and I related to them the whole affair, from beginning to end, not omitting one of their gambols. The officers were surpris'd, that out of such a number as I had mentioned, they could not find one. I was as much surpris'd as they, for I had counted eighteen, and said very simply, I supposed they were all spirits.

They laugh'd excessively at this idea, making great game of me and my spirits. The commissary then enquired, if those who went into the cellar had made a strict search, for he thought that the most likely place to find them in; they assur'd him they had; but this not satisfying him, he order'd them to light a flambeau, and



and attend him there. They obeyed ; and on entering the vaults, the first thing they saw was a barrel rolling towards them. The assistants all fell a trembling, and began to move off, saying, I was certainly in the right, the house was haunted.

The commissary, who was not so easily duped, stopped them, saying, he did not fear the devil himself ; and going to the cask, opened it, and discovered a man and woman, whom he handed out, and gave in charge to his people.

He then went to a barrel of oil, in which he found a man full dressed. When he perceived he was discovered, he attempted to jump out ; he performed this so awkwardly, that he threw down the vessel, the contents of  
of

of which spirted up like a fountain, and anointed not only the beards, but the cloaths also of the commissary and his attendants.

The man of oil observing that every body made way for him, took advantage of it to escape; it was in vain that the commissary cried out, stop him! stop him! none would approach him; and he therefore got away through a private door, leaving, however, oil enough in his track, to have furnished the lamp of our lady for a twelvemonth. The great *peace officer* was so *enraged* at the condition he found himself in, that he began to swear most heartily at those who had occasioned this mishap; he called me a thousand names, assuring me, I might depend on it, that all who had been engaged in this business should  
be

be hanged. We began to tremble at this menace.

They then proceeded to search the larder, and were approaching a large sack of flour, when a handful was thrown into their eyes; this was repeated to all that came near; they began stamping, swearing, and menacing those who dared to resist justice. Their opponents still directed handfuls of flour towards them, and aimed particularly at the commissary, who roared like a bull. Those who had the care of the prisoners quitted them to run to the assistance of their chief. These met the fate of their companions; as soon as they approached they were blinded by flour, so that each ran against the other, and gave such blows, that they almost broke each others head.

Seeing



Seeing our enemies in this disorder, we assembled all our forces, and charged them; they themselves assisting us so well, that we soon gained a complete victory. Not being able to see, they fell upon one another, and bestowed those blows on their friends, that were intended for their enemies: they fought till they were so exhausted, that they fell down; they were then assailed by such a shower of blows and kicks, that they remained like so many mummies.

When we found they were no longer in a situation to resist us, we tied them neck and heels, and conveyed them to the cellar, where they were thrown into the tub of oil, like so many fish when they are to be fried. The poor devils wallowed about, and resembled a litter of pigs in a sty; when

when they were thus secured, we took our leave, and each returned to his home. The owner of the house where these curious scenes had passed, was out of town ; he had left the care of it during his absence to a niece. The ill use she had made of her trust, and the consequence of her misconduct, rendered her so apprehensive of meeting her uncle at his return, that she quitted the house with the rest, and went to her father's.. When her uncle came home, he was very much surprised to find himself shut out, and that he could gain no answer from within. He ordered the locks to be taken from the doors ; but what was his astonishment, to see his house strewed all over with flour and oil. From astonishment he passed to a rage, that made him vow severe vengeance on those who had occasioned this confusion

fusion and loss. He directed his steps towards the cellar, where the tub of oil stood, in which he found the justice swimming, and his assistants on the ground, tied neck and heels. In a paroxysm of rage at the loss he had sustained he stopped not to attend to the suggestions of reason, or to listen to their defence; but with a stick which he brought in his hand, fell on the commissary and his people so unmercifully, that he left them half dead. Calling in his neighbours, the master of the house desired them to help him put those villains into the street. They complied, and the children gathering round the commissary and other officers, pelted them with all manner of dirt and filth. Thus bespattered and bemired, it was impossible any body should recognize them. When they recovered their senses,



senses, and found the situation they were in ; the first use they made of their liberty was to take to their heels. One might have cried out, stop justice ! who is taking flight ! They had left their cloaks, hats, and swords at the house they quitted thus ignominiously ; and never dared reclaim them, for fear of being subject to ridicule. The master kept these to indemnify himself for his losses.

When I took my departure from this house, I picked up a cloak, which being infinitely better than my own, I exchanged for it ; and congratulated myself, that for once in my life I had made a good bargain, and passed a day with tolerable comfort, a circumstance that rarely happened to me. I went to the taylor's ; there I found the house turned topsy turvey, and  
the

the husband beating his wife without mercy, because she came home without her cloak or veil, and a mob of children shouting after her.

I arrived, as usual, at a lucky minute; for the taylor no sooner spied me, than he quitted his wife to wreak his vengeance on me. He assailed me by a blow with his fist so plump in the mouth, that he knocked the few remaining teeth down my throat. After that, he kicked me in the stomach, till he made it render up an account of the few paltry goods I had been able to lodge there. "Are you not ashamed, said he, to shew your face in this house, you vile pimp? But you shall pay off, not only this score, but what you owe society for past times." So saying, he called to his men to bring a blanket, in which they  
tossed

tossed me with a degree of satisfaction that could be only exceeded by my regret, nor left off till they left me for dead. My master then concluding, I suppose, I had paid off all scores. They left me in this condition on the great table. It was quite dark when I came to my senses ; and not knowing where I was, in turning round, I fell off and broke my arm. At the approach of day, I took myself from this scene of my misery, and sheltered myself under the porch of a church, where I asked alms.



## CHAPTER XVII.

*Lazarillo turns Hermit.*

AS I lay thus prostrate, I began to reflect on my past life. Every misfortune that had happened to me from the time of my entering the service of the blind man, to the present time, arose fresh in my mind, and proved to me, that he who works the hardest is not always the richest. No endeavours of mine had been wanting to gain a livelihood, but I had not succeeded; so that I was a testimony of the truth of the proverb, which says, “*He whom God assists, does better than he who rises betimes.*” The conviction I had of this made me recommend myself to the protection of Providence, hoping the remainder

mainder of my life would be more fortunate than the preceding part of it had been. It seemed as if my prayer was heard; for while I was offering up my petition, a venerable hermit was passing close to me; his beard was long, and white as snow; he supported himself on a stick, and held in the other hand a chaplet, at the end of which there hung a large skull. Seeing me in this miserable situation, he took pity on, and consoled me; he enquired whence I came, and what had reduced me to that deplorable condition. I gave him a full account of my dismal peregrinations and bitter sufferings in as few words as possible. He was astonished, and so much affected by the relation, that he offered me an asylum in his hermitage. I joyfully accepted his offer; and by the help of two or three good people

who were at hand, got up, for my arm and bruises were by this time much worse.

I then accompanied my new patron to his hermitage, but with great pain and difficulty, for it was three quarters of a league from Valladolid. His retreat was in a cell that had been dug in a rock; it consisted of two apartments; one served to hold his bed, and all his necessaries; the other was his chapel. He had also a garden, rather curious than large, which provided him with fruit and vegetables, and served to amuse him. When we had reposed ourselves, the good old man said to me, I have lived twenty years in this retreat, removed from the bustle and vexations of the world; it is to me a terrestrial paradise. Here I contemplate things human  
man



man and divine. I eat when I am hungry, and fast when I am satisfied. I watch and contemplate when I cannot sleep, and when I can sleep, here I rest. I am in solitude when I have no company, and when I have, am not alone. I laugh when I am merry, and cry when I am grieved. I work when I am not idle, and am idle when I do not work. Here I meditate on my past misfortunes, and contemplate my present happiness. In fine, it is here that I remain in ignorance of all things, and here where that I learn all things.

The hermit's discourse filled my mind with a satisfaction I had never tasted before. I begged of him to describe the hermit's life more particularly, because it seemed to me the happiest in the world. The happiest

indeed, replied he ; there is none that bears any comparifon to it. But I cannot now comply with your request, becaufe it is dinner time. I defired him then to try if he could fet my arm, which put me to great pain ; he did it, and with fo much eafe, I never felt more of it from that moment. We eat like kings and drank like templars. Our feaft ended, we went to pafs the afternoon according to the Spanifh custom, in taking a nap ; but I had not clofed my eyes long, before I heard the good hermit cry out, help ! help ! I am dying !

I arofe in great hafte, and going to him, found him indeed expiring. I asked him if he was going to die ? he faid, yes, yes ; and faid nothing but that word till he went off, which was in an hour from that time. I was very  
much

much alarmed at this event, for I conceived, that if the poor man died without witnesses, I might be suspected of having murdered him, and so lose the life I had preserved with so much difficulty; nor would my appearance vouch much in my favour, since I certainly looked more like a thief than an honest man.

I went out of the hermitage immediately, to try if I could not find somebody to be a witness on this occasion. Looking round, I spied a flock of sheep. I ran directly, though in great pain. I found nine or ten shepherds and shepherdesses, who, to avoid the heat of the day, had retired under some willows that overshadowed a fountain of clear water; some were playing on their pipes, accompanied by their voices; some

I 3                      dancing



dancing to the sound of the tabret, and others with castanets; and at a little distance were a lover and his mistress; he knelt at her feet, while she held his hand in hers, and seemed not inclined to drive him to despair. In short, it was altogether the most agreeable scene I ever beheld; but I could not contemplate it so long as I wished, my errand requiring dispatch. I joined this gay party, almost overpowered by fatigue and fright, and requesting them to go with me immediately to the hermit, who was dying.

Two or three of them agreed to return with me; when we arrived, they asked the hermit if he chose to die then? he replied, yes; but I believe he meant no; for it seemed to me that he would have chose to live  
a little

a little longer, if it had been at his option. Perceiving that he was in such an affirmative mood, I resolved to make a few propositions to him ; I therefore asked him, if he was willing that the shepherds should make his will, and witness it ? he said, yes. If he left me sole heir ? he said, yes. If he acknowledged that all he was worth was a tribute due to my service, and the pleasure he had received in my company ? he said, yes. If, as he was incapable himself of signing this testament, he agreed that the shepherds should sign it for him ? he said, yes, yes ; and died in pronouncing yes. This will was registered by a coal upon the wall, as we had no pen or ink. We buried him that night ; for I was so accustomed to bad fortune, that I feared my present good luck might fail by the resurrection of  
the

the hermit to revoke his will. I invited the shepherds to sup with me, but they excused themselves on account of their being obliged to go and lead the flocks home. They took their leave, expressing very great concern to see me in such affliction.

As soon as they were gone, I went to examine the state of my property. In the inner apartment I found a closet, which served as cellar and larder, in which there was a large cask of excellent wine, and another of oil; two jars of honey, a great deal of salt meat, and some dried fruits. There were also two shelves of books, consisting chiefly of history and theology. To these I am indebted for amusement and instruction in my leisure hours; and to them my readers are indebted for forming the stile in which my memoirs are written.

All



All these acquisitions delighted me vastly; but there was one thing yet wanting; I could not conceive that a man who was so provident, should be without money. I renewed my search, therefore, and at length discovered a chest, but did not find even in that what I was in search of; it contained only clothes and linen. I had a great mind to go to the old man's tomb, and enquire where he kept his money, for I had heard that ghosts always discover those secrets; but I judged he would reproach me for my folly, in supposing so wise a man would keep his money in a chest, when his retreat was so favourable for a visit from thieves. I thought this idea was an inspiration from his spirit, and it led me to consider, if I had money to hide, where I should conceal it. It immediately struck me, that the  
place

place I should chuse would be behind the altar. I therefore went there immediately, and taking down the front of it, which was composed of baked clay, perceived a hole about the size of a real; my heart began to palpitate, and my blood to boil at this sight.

I took a spade, and in less than two moments discovered the reliques which were buried in that consecrated ground. I found an earthen vessel quite full of money; I counted it; there was six hundred reals. I was so transported at the sight of this money, that I thought I should have died with joy on the spot. I took it from that place, and made a hole in the ground under a tree, at some distance from the hermitage, that in case some new misfortune should  
draw

draw me from my retreat, I might have wherewithal to pass the remainder of my days in comfort.

When I had finished this business, I returned to the altar, which I replaced in its former situation. The next morning I put on the habit of the deceased, and went to the prior of the convent to inform him of what had happened. I found the whole community to which the hermitage belonged, in full convocation; they were called the brotherhood of St. Lazarus, which I conceived a good omen, from the relation of our names. This holy brotherhood perceiving me grey headed, of a venerable mien and palid aspect, which are great requisites for the profession, seemed inclined to accept me into the fraternity; but they objected to my  
want



want of beard; however, as I promised to let mine grow, and the shepherds vouched for the deceased having left me all his property, they agreed to give me the provision of the chapel.

This difficulty of the beard reminds me of a circumstance related to me once by a monk. He told me, that neither in his religion or that of others more reformed, did they ever elect a superior who had not a very fine beard; so far did they carry this, that they often admitted men of inferior understanding, who purely possessed that advantage, and excluded those of the greatest abilities for want of it; as if wisdom, and a capacity to regulate a community, depended on the texture of the skin. My new brethren then recommended to me to follow

follow the example of my predecessor, who had acquired such reputation for piety, that he was regarded as a saint. I promised to lead the life of a Hercules. They signified to me that I was to ask alms only on Tuesdays and Saturdays; for if I did on the other days, the mendicant brotherhood would punish me. I promised to observe all they said, particularly in what related to the community they mentioned, since I had once been in their hands, and knew therefore what they were capable of. I then took my leave, and proceeded immediately to ask alms (it being Saturday) at the neighbouring houses. I asked in a low, devout, and humble tone, as the blind man had taught me. It was not from necessity that I did this, but in compliance with custom. For according to the example of my brethren,

thren, the more I had, the more solicitous I should be to accumulate.

Those who heard me ask money for the illumination of St. Lazarus, came out of their houses, not knowing my voice; they were astonished to find a stranger, and enquired of me what was become of the good father Anselm (the name of the deceased.) I told them he was dead; one said, God rest his soul, he was very good; another, he is now in heaven; some said, blessed are those who lead such a life. A good woman assured the byestanders he had not tasted meat for six years; her neighbour went further, and said he never tasted any thing but bread and water. Ah, thought I, how little do people know of those they lavishly praise or virulently decry! One of those good people enquired what I had done with  
his



his habit; I told her that was it I wore. She immediately took her scissars, and cut a piece from the part next her, saying, "don't be surpris'd my friend; I am anxious to have a relique of that blessed faint, and will pay you for the damage done to your habit." Doubtless, said some of the byestanders, he will be canonized soon, for he has already wrought some miracles. In short, I found the good hermit such a favorite, that I took the hint, and henceforth asked alms for the illumination of the blessed Anselm, instead of for St. Lazarus. I never could comprehend the meaning of this asking alms to pray for the enlightning of the saints, who are themselves lights; but I must avoid touching on this string, lest it should jar. I went very regularly at first to ask alms on the days appointed, less

from the usual incentive with my brethren of accumulating riches, than from apprehension that refraining from it might lead people to suspect my treasure; however, time lessened this apprehension, and I have passed several years without any molestation, and in perfect ease and tranquillity. I follow the example of my predecessor in doing as my inclination prompts, and like him, am in a fair way of being canonized by those too who formerly would have given me bruises instead of blessings. I sometimes read, sometimes write, and sometimes reflect. The following observations have often occurred to me; that we often see men raised from the dirt, who acquire riches, honors, and estimation without our knowing how they attained, or are intitled to them. If we ask, is such a one wise or ingenious?

nious? has he genius or talents? the answer is no; but he is fortunate. We see others on the contrary, who are sensible, clever, industrious, and capable of governing a kingdom, who are poor, deserted, and despised; enquire the cause, and you are told they are unfortunate. It should seem therefore, that chance governs the world; but this mistake arises from our viewing only one point of a man's life, or judging his happiness from his situation. A man may be very happy at one period of life, and very miserable at another. Or he may be apparently happy or miserable, and be in reality the reverse; for a splendid appearance often conceals an aching heart, as a tattered cloak often covers a cheerful mind. I am myself an instance of the truth of what I advance. Once I was the outcast of fortune, a miracle of misery;



fery; I am now in the enjoyment of all earthly felicity. I have also had an aching heart under a velvet cloak, and a chearful mind under a tattered one. Hence then let no man despair. In my long and various peregrinations, I have seen much of the world; I have drawn this knowledge from it, that none are constantly happy or constantly miserable. Let those therefore who are happy, bear prosperity with moderation; let those who are wretched, sustain their misfortunes with patience, and look forward to hope.

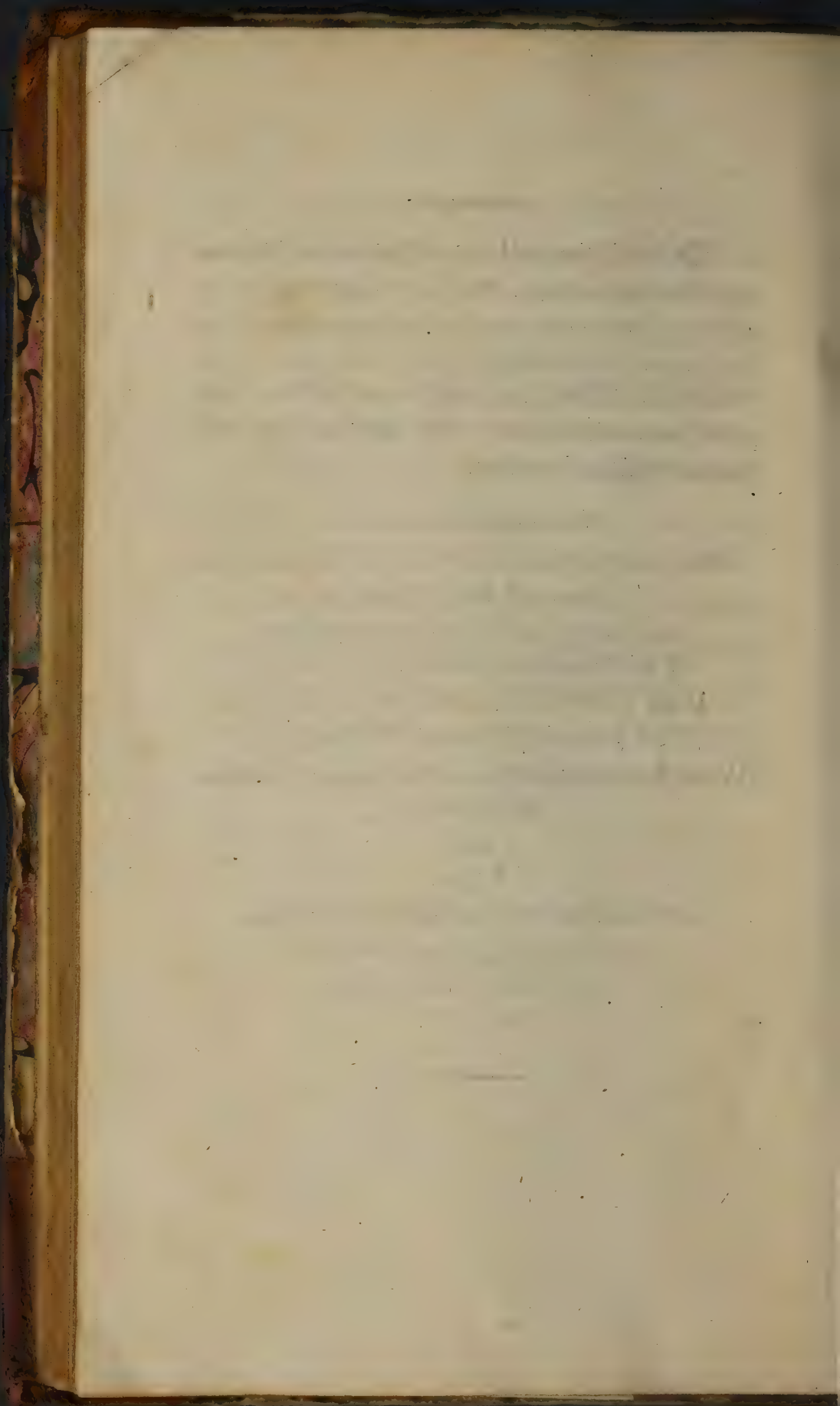
THE END.

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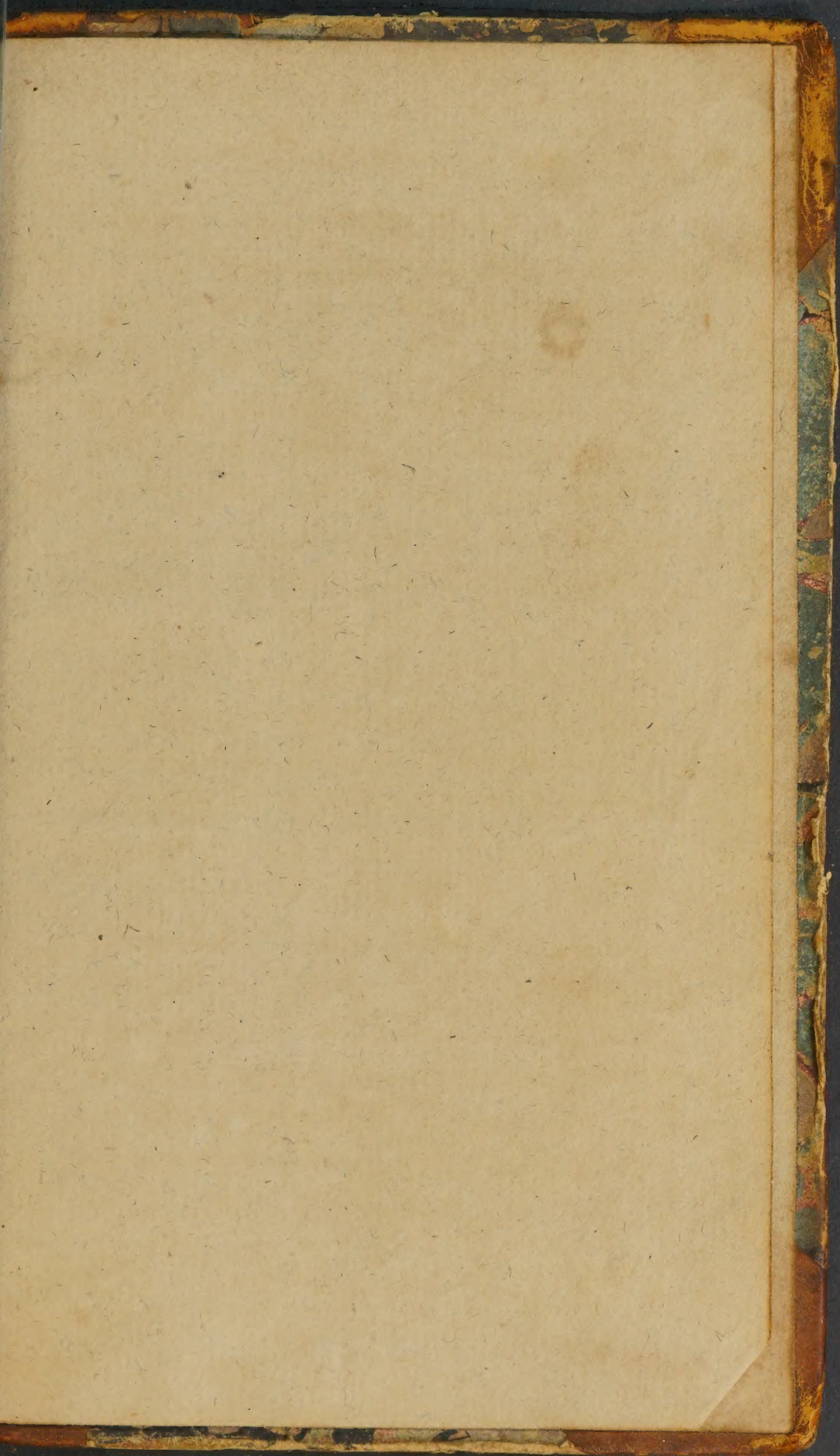
TO satisfy the curiosity of the readers (who are doubtless interested in the fate of Lazarillo) to the utmost of our power, we inform them, that he died in peace at his hermitage, some years after he had written his history, and was buried in the chapel of it, where his tomb is still to be seen, with the following inscription :

Here lies the Body of  
BROTHER LAZARILLO GONZALES,  
furnamed DE TORMES ;  
who having played on the great Stage  
of the World the following Characters,  
Blind Man's Boy, Clerk of the Village,  
Valet to all Sorts of Masters,  
Water Merchant, Public Cryer, India Merchant,  
Sea Monster,  
and  
Usher,  
died a Hermit on the 12th of September,  
in the Year 1570, aged 69 Years,  
5 Months, and 11 Days.  
R. I. P.

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